JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

NOW FOR OUR £2,000

FINAL COUPON THIS WEEK.

The British Library

What's Wrong?

Below are 6 pictures denoting various correct objects. In each of these pictures the artist has omitted something or drawn the object incorrectly in some point of detail. Find out the error in every picture, write the solutions in the spaces provided, [illegible] Don't send now, buy this week's Mary Bull and read all about it. But don't fail to use this free set, if you would like a $10 note or one of the 300 gifts to be won.

1st PRIZE,

£10

300

HANDSOME CONSOLATION GIFTS.

Watches, Brooches, Bangles, &c., &c.

AFTER SOLVING THIS FREE SET,

GET

Mary Bull

Out Friday, Jan. 2nd. 1d.

AND

READ ALL ABOUT THIS ENTERTAINING COMPETITION.

EASY PICTURE PUZZLES.

CAN YOU SOLVE THEM?

THERE IS NOTHING TO PAY—YOU CAN USE THIS

Free Set.

FIRST READ THIS

[illegible]

CUP TIE ENTRANCE FORM.

First Round to be played Saturday, Jan. 10.

HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
Manchester City	v.	Fulham
Newcastle United	v.	Sheffield United
Queen's Park Rang.	v.	Bristol City
Leicester Fosse	v.	Stoke
Preston N.E.	v.	Bristol Rovers
Oldham	v.	Brighton
Liverpool	v.	Barnsley
Swindon	v.	Manchester United
Derby County	v.	Northampton
Bradford	v.	Reading
Millwall	v.	Chelsea
Crystal Palace	v.	Norwich
West Bromwich A.	v.	Grimsby
Wolverhampton W.	v.	Southampton
Bradford City	v.	Arsenal
Hull City	v.	Bury
Gainsborough	v.	Leeds City
Glossop	v.	Everton
Sheffield Wed.	v.	Notts County
Portsmouth	v.	Clyde

[illegible]

Signed .....

7 .....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NEW METHOD OF MARKING COUPON

[illegible]

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent with, or be accepted as proof of, forecasts made on Entrance Form.

Coupon A.	TEAMS	Coupon B.	TEAMS
1	Manchester City v. Fulham	1	Millwall v. Chelsea
2	Newcastle U. v. Sheffield U.	2	Crystal P. v. Norwich
3	Queen's P. v. Bristol C.	3	W. Bromwich A. v. Grimsby
4	Leicester F. v. Stoke	4	Wolverhampton W. v. Southampton
5	Preston N.E. v. Bristol R.	5	Bradford C. v. Arsenal
6	Oldham v. Brighton	6	Hull City v. Bury
7	Liverpool v. Barnsley	7	Gainsborough v. Leeds C.
8	Swindon v. Manchester U.	8	Glossop v. Everton
9	Derby C. v. Northampton	9	Sheffield Wed.
10	Bradford v. Reading	10	Portsmouth

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVI. No. 396. Week ending Saturday, January 3rd, 1914. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for DEC. 27th, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number **384,276.**

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

To You.

"A very happy and prosperous New Year." We believe that is the correct formula, and we express it heartily. On another page we indulge in a few reflections upon the ever interesting period. Perhaps the best wish is—May none of us get more than he deserves!

A Poet on Party.

Thus Tennyson in "In Memoriam":

> Ring out a slowly-dying cause,
> And ancient forms of party strife,
> Ring in the nobler modes of life,
> With sweeter manners, purer laws.

An appropriate quatrain to recall on the threshold of the New Year.

Shocking Fall from Grace.

For many moons we have watched the decline in the moral calibre of the *Daily News*. There was a time when its piety was one of the glories of journalism; its soul was like a star, and dwelt apart. We have suffered its gradual fall from grace, hoping against hope that it would recover. We saw it newsify affairs in the City, shed its sacred beams on—some of—the winners, and even give a full and true report of Wells's fall in that temple of British decadence, the National Sporting Club; but we have now reached the limit. Discussing the affair of Zabern the other day, our contemporary said it appeared that soldiers were holding "the poor devil of a cripple," when the lieutenant cut him across the head with his sword! Oh, us!

We Beg to Ask—

What is the exact nature of the charge against Mr. John Love Elliott, of Hammerwood House, East Grinstead, which has occupied the attention of the local Bench for some time past, and has—*contrary to law*—been heard with closed doors? This secrecy is unfair to Mr. Elliott, unfair *to his daughters*, and unfair to the public.

The Wrong Time.

Surely the Stock Exchange Committee has selected a very inopportune time to set out on a "disciplinary" campaign. Much better have waited till there was something doing—and then people would not have noticed it!

The Channel Tunnel.

We are glad to see this project being seriously revived. There is not a single argument against it which will bear a moment's examination. Indeed, the only thing which raises any element of doubt in minds is the lamentable fact that Mr. Keir Hardie is a supporter of the scheme!

Who Will Fight?

We are not of those who regard the recent Carpentier-Wells fight as an epoch-making event, although to judge from some of the papers, one might imagine that the young French boy has not only knocked out Wells, but the British Empire as well, and had written "Ichabod" on London's tottering walls. But we *should* like to think that the burly gentleman from whom we take our name was still the champion puncher of the world. Who will go into training? *We* will gladly provide the purse. What says Jim Larkin?

Our Bachelor Bishop.

This is the time of year when we are wont to turn up the pages of the Bible and other interesting old books, written when the world (as we know it) was young, and when men had time to think. And in peeping once more into Timothy, we came across a text which we propose to send to the bachelor Bishop of London. We found it in the First Epistle, Chap. 3, and here it is: "A bishop must be blameless, the *husband of one wife*, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, *given to hospitality* . . . one that *ruleth well his own house*, having *his children* in subjection with all gravity." We trust that, before the close of the New Year, it may be unnecessary for us to repeat this text.

The Wine of the Bible.

And, by the way, what do the special pleaders who tell us that the wine of the Bible was unfermented say to this: "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, *not given to much wine*," etc.?

NOW for our Mammoth Football Prizes. Final Coupon and your last chance. See page 23.

From Gaby to Forcible Feeding.

The activities of the Bishop of Kensington are indeed manifold. Having, presumably, once and for all disposed of naughty Miss Gaby Deslys and her pretty, powdered legs, he has turned his attention to the awful problem of forcible feeding. It will be remembered that a few days ago a meeting was held at which many Church dignitaries were present, and at which pompous resolutions condemning the forcible feeding of militant suffragettes were passed. The Church of England Men's Society is a body which dissociates itself from Party politics. The question of forcible feeding has undoubtedly become a political question—its supporters and opponents being, roughly speaking, the supporters and opponents respectively of the female franchise. Consequently, on the question as to whether the Society should countenance the meeting referred to, the Executive of the C.E.M.S. passed the following resolution, proposed by the Rev. J. E. Watts-Ditchfield, Vicar of St. James the Less, Bethnal Green: "That the Executive decides to adhere to the usual policy of the Society, and not to send any accredited representatives to the meeting." One might have thought this would be sufficient, but the Executive of the C.E.M.S. reckoned without the Bishop of Kensington's Secretary. That busy gentleman promptly issued a circular to all the branches of the Society in the London diocese, stating that the Council of the Church had authorised him to approach them, and to invite the members of the different branches to attend the meeting. With each circular was enclosed a ticket of admission, conspicuously inscribed "C.E.M.S." We should be interested to know by whose authority the Bishop's Secretary issued that circular. Until the facts are explained, not only will the C.E.M.S. be open to a charge of political partisanship—it will further appear that the will of the Executive may be flouted with impunity.

Preputty!

Should the Duke of Bedford continue to disburden himself of his landed estates at his present pace, there will soon be one denizen the less in the Chancellor's chamber of platform horrors. Mr. Mallaby-Deeley's purchase of the Covent Garden estate is typical of a process which has already effected far-reaching changes in the circumstances of land tenure both in town and country. Despite successive panics, land remains a tempting field for the speculation of the plutocrat, and the exchange of gold for solid earth proceeds apace. Such transfers are not without a distinct bearing upon the political aspects of land-ownership. It is an easy matter to pick holes in a man's title when you can trace it back through his family tree to days when *meum* and *tuum* represented a less familiar conception than at present; but an outright purchase for hard cash is a stubborn "root of title" against which the most reckless reformer is apt to stumble. The public are a long way from being "educated" out of the old-fashioned notion that what a man has bought is his own.

"Cotton-wool Policemen."

We are glad to say that our recent paragraph under this heading, dealing with the Derby Borough police, had immediate effect. An inquiry is to be held, but meanwhile a number of policemen "with new faces" were to be seen on special jobs on the racecourse at Derby on December 16th, three days after our criticism. The pen is mightier than the—truncheon!

Wha Wad a Thocht It?

Wonders never cease. That hardy annual, the motion to open the public reading room at Inverness on Sundays, has been carried at last! Though they'll no allow wustlin i' the toon on the Sawbath, at any rate not yet, the wee bairns are hopefu'.

A Sharp Rebuke.

A heated utterance upon the Ulster question has brought a swift rebuke, from an unexpected quarter upon Colonel Sir Arthur Boscawen, M.P., Commanding Officer of the Special Reserve of the West Kent Regiment. The gallant Colonel was "booked" to present prizes to the local Territorials in the near future, but in view of his expressed sympathy with the firebrands of Belfast, he was politely requested by the officers' mess to cancel his engagement—"such speeches being prejudicial to the discipline of the Service." As far as we can judge, Sir Arthur's offence seems to have been much more venial than that of Colonel Hickman, M.P., to which we recently made reference. He appears, indeed, to have contented himself with the assertion that "in the event of actual hostilities in Ulster," he would throw up his commission and stand with Carson in the breach. A contingent threat of this kind is clearly a different matter from bragging of actual assistance rendered to prospective rebels. At the same time, it is well that excitable officers should be reminded that they cannot at one and the same time enjoy the dignity of his Majesty's Commission and the licence of unbridled utterance. We congratulate the officers of the West Kent Territorials on their zeal for the credit of the Service.

The East Cambridgeshire Tanner.

They have a Liberal candidate in East Cambridgeshire who is one of the up-and-downest, through-and-throughest, thick-and-thinnest Liberal candidates who has appeared on the political horizon for many a long day—Mr. Ernest Tanner, to wit. A few evenings ago this embryo statesman was present at the annual supper of the Duxford and District Liberal Club, spoke thereat, and "received a hearty ovation." And we don't wonder, for one of the many resounding pledges he gave to the gathering was that "In everything the Government had done in the past, and in everything the Government meant to do in the future, he would support them." If that isn't handsome we don't know what is, and we don't care whether he was inspired by pie or pudding, boiled pork or mangel-wurzels. The Government have only to go full steam ahead and they can rely on Tanner for ever and for aye. He is what you call a pillar of the Party. Heaven help it when he crumbles into dust!

Unpractical Sympathy.

The sporting parson who, having received an unsolicited draft for £50 from a firm of moneylenders, retained the amount to see what would happen, has not had long to wait for the satisfaction of his curiosity. A County Court judge has ordered his reverence to return the cash forthwith and to pay the plaintiffs' costs. When the parson gets the bill of costs he will probably be tempted to wish that the sympathy expressed by the learned judge had taken a more practical turn. Meanwhile, we reflect that a tradesman who sends goods on approval without an express request, does so at his own risk and receives scant aid from the Courts in any attempt at their recovery. Why should moneylenders be better placed in circumstances of exact similarity?

Rare and Refreshing J.P.

It is just our luck that when we happen on a rare and refreshing specimen of an English Justice of the Peace the reporter who is there at the time forgets to mention his honoured name. "At Newmarket Petty Sessions yesterday," says a Hants newspaper, "the Chairman, rather than send a defendant without money to prison, offered him work to earn the amount of the fine. The defendant gratefully accepted the Chairman's offer." Gentlemen, hats off to the Chairman of the Newmarket Bench!

A good resolution: to buy "John Bull" and "Mary Bull" every week during 1914.

Taking Time by the Forelock.

Judging by a letter which has reached us, Mr. J. Goss, of 30, Oxford Grove, Ilfracombe, is one of those sanctimonious humbugs who are not pretty sights to see on earth at Christmas, or any other time. Recently a young man died after a long and painful illness. Three days before his death Mr. Goss sent to his mother, and also his father, who lived some distance away, a letter of which what follows is an extract: "Dear Mrs. ——,—Being one of the sidesmen of St. Peter's Church for many years, I deeply regret hearing your dear son prayed for on Sunday, knowing you and Mr. —— and family so many years when you were residing at ——. I have been living at Ilfracombe for 27 years, carrying on building and undertaking business, and if it's the Lord's will to take your dear son from you I should be willing to render assistance to carry out the funeral arrangements. I have done a great many and have always given satisfaction. I hope and trust he will be restored again; it must be a very anxious time for you all. Yours sincerely, J. Goss." An inspiration of this kind can hardly have come to J. Goss all of a sudden. At a guess we should say it is a professional habit, and that practice has made him perfect in it. The spectacle of J. Goss wiping his tear-stained face while some poor suffering soul, face to face with eternity, is being prayed for by the clergy and congregation of St. Peter's, and afterwards going home with head bowed in grief and woe to write an oily, canting, pharisaic letter begging the relatives to give him the job of burying the dear departed if and when he should depart, must be one of the most nauseating spectacles in Ilfracombe. If this advertisement will assist J. Goss in his undertaking business, he has our heartfelt assurance that he is welcome to it. He is the most deserving case of his kind to come our way for many moons.

Crass Cruelty.

"Hanging is the proper way to kill a dog; they hang men," declared William Harvey, of Guildford, whereupon the brute proceeded to put his ideas into revolting practice. Upon his own showing, he first hit his dog over the head with a stick, and then, slinging a rope round its neck, hoisted it to the branch of a tree about nine feet from the ground. The wretched creature hung thus for thirty minutes. By this time Harvey was apparently tired of watching its agony, and he accordingly cut it down, hit it over the head again with his stick and then, without waiting to make sure it was dead, buried it. For this abominable outrage, the Guildford Magistrates thought fit to fine Harvey a sovereign and let him go. Where's our whip? We hardly know whether to begin with the blackguard or the Bench. As Harvey says, "They hang men"; why not hang Harvey?

"We Told You So."

Just a word on matters legal. Nearly every one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Delay in the King's Bench Division has, at one time or another, been advocated in these columns. Only the other day we were pleading for the abolition of the Grand Jury and the shortening of the Long Vacation, while from time to time we have dealt with the Circuit system, the hours of judges, and the desirability of an age-limit for the Bench. Meanwhile, we note that the Lord Chief Justice has been complimenting his brethren upon the despatch which has characterised their recent labours, much of which is doubtless due to his own sagacious supervision. Didn't we tell you he would make a rattling good Lord Chief? And he hasn't had a decent chance yet.

Another Good Man Gone Wrong.

Another good man has gone wrong in a place where one would expect to find all things perfect, or at any rate as near as near can be, to wit in the East Ham Free Church Council, of which the Rev. W. T. Boyce is Hon. Secretary and a Mr. D. Gordon his assistant. On the eve of a by-election in the Plashet West Ward, Mr. Gordon sent out a circular on the notepaper of the Council asking support for the candidature of Mr. W. G. Davie, as he "is well known as one of the prominent workers at Plashet Park Congregational Church." Meanwhile, the Rev. Mr. Boyce appears to have nominated Captain Francis. This fact did not trouble the conscience of the rev. gentleman. He did not even pause to consider the etiquette of the occasion in regard to the gallant captain. Instead of standing by his man, holding his peace, and explaining afterwards if necessary, he wrote to Mr. Davie from the site of his pulpiteering, "Plashet Park Congregational Church" as thus "Dear Mr. Davie,—When I nominated Captain Francis I had not the slightest intimation that you were entering the lists. Under the circumstances I am compelled through a more intimate knowledge of you to wish you a successful (*sic*) victory over your opponent. Yours sincerely, W. T. Boyce." Mr. Facing-Both-Ways never better illustrated the gentle art of time-serving, or Mr. Chadband the indecent gift of humbug personified, than this quick-turn exhibition. It is not vouchsafed unto us that it served its purpose, but we hope not. To "boyce" your friends ought to become a term of peculiar significance in the politics of East Ham.

The Handy Man in Japan.

An extraordinary and unaccustomed indictment against the British handy-man is made by an Englishman, writing to us from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Nagasaki, Japan. It is almost incredible, and our only object in publishing it is that the accused, who carry the reputation of the Empire with them, may have a swift opportunity of refutation. After asking us to "draw the attention of the Admiralty to the way our naval officers give way to drink, especially out here in the East," the writer proceeds: "During the stay of a German cruiser here in Japanese waters the orderly conduct of the officers and men was marked. This cannot be said for a number of the officers and men of one of H.M. cruisers now at anchor here. Our Jack Tars when on shore make the lowest drinking saloons their headquarters, and often parade the streets wearing Japanese gowns, much to the disgust of Europeans and natives. The drinking-to-excess propensities of the officers is not calculated to set a good example to the lower rank and file. It is time the Admiralty took the matter in hand. As a well-wisher and great admirer of our naval men . . . I draw your attention to these facts without bias, with good intentions, and in all sincerity." Now then, Admiralty and handymen, what say you?

Oxford Tram Service.

Some few weeks ago we commented upon the condition of the horses used for the Oxford tramways. It now appears that a private company has sought to remedy matters, and at the same time do a good stroke of business, by establishing a motor 'bus service. They are well patronised, but their position has been rendered difficult by the Borough Council, which will not grant a licence to ply for hire—the result being that the passengers have to purchase their tickets at shops before boarding the cars. Great curiosity exists in the University city as to who will ultimately become master of the road. Not the least interested parties are the poor old horses.

The Final Coupon for our £2,000 Cup Tie Prize appears this week. Turn to page 23.

That £140,000!

From the number of letters we have read and the number we haven't reaching us from doctors. we gather that we have brought nearly half the profession about us in every attitude possible to threat. clamour. warning, cajolery, flattery, and cunning. One must stand for many. Thus: "You are quite wrong in equity in stating that the panel doctors are not entitled to this huge sum. The capitation fee was based on the usual actuarial principle of all insurance and the healthy pay for the sick. It would be absurd to suggest that 7s. 6d. per head per sick person per annum would pay the doctor. and more than half this surplus is derived from the happy-go-lucky class who say, 'I've never had a day's illness in my life. so I won't bother selecting a doctor.' Would you have the doctors lose because of these criminally foolish and improvident ones? Already doctors are treating patients who come sick and to select their doctor at the same time. and this also throws the average out against the doctor. for it's just like insuring your wife's life after she's dead and claiming insurance. Oh. for a business critic." This letter being as clear as mud in itself and as convincing as all the others. also this being the season of peace on earth and goodwill towards men we retire from the struggle with two hundred and forty thuds on the solar plexus and thirty-seven on the chin corners all of which we accept in the spirit in which they are meant. When we get over the festivities of the season we may return to the fray.

Vision of Wealth for Shanklin.

Shanklin, in the Isle of Wight. is a charming little place in summer. but if the suggestion of the Mr. A. J. Mew who spoke at the local Horticultural Society's meeting. is to be adopted in order to make it less dull in winter we can see a lot of our readers going elsewhere. "Supposing," said Mr. Mew cheerily a tax of say 6d per head was levied on every visitor that came to Shanklin. it could be put into the landlady's bill and go into some central fund. and I have not the slightest doubt it will yield a magnificent sum per annum for the purpose of providing amusements for the Shanklin visitors." That's the worst of some of these tariff reformers; they are always so keen on taxing somebody else. Seemingly. Mr. Mew's notion is that the Shanklin landlady shall conceal the existence of this sixpenny Amusement Tax by its surreptitious inclusion in the charges for use of cruet. light to see yourself get into bed. and wear and tear of crockery. In vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird: but when the sky falls Mr. Mew may catch larks.

Clothes and the Man.

Really. they are funny folk beside the seaside. leaving the Mewing at Shanklin out of question. For instance. when Alderman Martin of the Eastbourne Town Council. inquired at the last meeting why the Entertainment Committee had paid 45s. for the coat of the chair attendant and only 40s. for the coat of the band conductor the Chairman Councillor Thornton answered. "The conductor's coat will be a second-hand army one; the other will be new." Though in a general way there is nothing like clearing up things it is probable that in the particular instance this public revelation will cause the conductor's second-hand 40s. coat to weigh heavily on his heart. Surely the Committee cannot have thought of the humiliation put on a soulful professor of music conducting the wonders and beauties of ragtime in a 40s. second-hand army coat. while a meaner menial goes round collecting twopences for the chairs in a new raiment costing as much as 45s. It is enough to make the poor man throw down his baton and take up a trombone.

Pickles and Sauce.

Some of the members of the Rochford Board of Guardians—Mr. Meachen and Mr. Foat mainly, it seems—are concerned, and properly concerned. that things invoiced to the Board by the Master as pickles and sauce are *not* pickles and sauce. "Mr. Foat said that what had transpired showed the rottenness of the condition of things going on there. Was it not opening the door to all sorts of corruption?" The Chairman: "I don't know." But the Chairman ought to know, because it is his business to know. and he is hereby advised to get to know. If the account for "12 doz. p and s. at 7s. a dozen" is sent in when it is well known that 12 doz. p. and s are not used by the officers, and if it turns out on explanation that it includes, according to the Master tinned fruit, salmon paste, potted meat and such things there does not seem any reason why it shouldn't also include a pound of tobacco, a box of cigars, and a bottle of Scotch. This sort of public accounts ought not to be allowed at Rochford or anywhere else, and the Guardians had better stop it at once.

A Blind Guide.

Mr. William Clough, Liberal M.P. for the Skipton Division of Yorkshire, recently proceeded to Grassington to address his admiring constituents. At the outset of the proceedings the Chairman intimated his regret at the smallness of the audience "not because he wanted them to be of his opinion. but to hear what was going on in the affairs of the nation." Thus encouraged the honourable member proceeded to let himself go. Harking back to the Budget of 1909 he roundly declared that he was ready "to vote for it blindly. early. late, and often." Seeing that the measure in question has been settled law for four years. we fear the worthy Clough will be hard put to it to find an outlet for his blind devotion: but it is of course possible that he may have one or two more up-to-date ideas in his political repertory. In any case. should he maintain his present promise. we back Clough for a baronetcy. To be stone-blind is the chiefest of Party virtues.

The Vicar's Way.

Assuming that the Vicar of Southwick is responsible for the form and contents of the *Southwick Parish Magazine*. he reveals himself in the current issue as a typical sample of the clerical bigot. mean enough and petty enough to be almost beneath notice. Under "Burials" we find that all the names are given full out except one. and that is sandwiched in the list as "November 15 —— Brazier (not christened). aged 8." Because the child wasn't christened this parson wouldn't announce its death by its Christian name as known and registered. so that casual readers of his precious "religious" publication are left to guess whether little Brazier was a boy or a girl. What supreme good taste! What exquisite charity!

Beer and Milk.

According to the Dr. Jones who addressed a meeting of Medical Officers of Health in London the other evening. if beer were produced in breweries under the same filthy conditions that milk is produced on farms there would be very few who would drink it. as to which one of our readers says he is by no means sure. "What," he asks, "does Dr. Jones think becomes of all the dregs and drains and emptyings of beer glasses and half-pint mugs in hundreds of beerhouses throughout the country? Does he imagine they are wasted? If so he is surely wrong. What the eye does not see the heart does not grieve over" We hope this is a slander on the trade.

Football Competitors! Please note our new method of marking the Coupon.

Query for a Bishop.

A gentleman named "Doubtful" wishes to know whether or not it is "consistent that the Bishop of Kensington, whose Church teaches, and he no doubt preaches, that Sunday is the Sabbath referred to in the Fourth Commandment, should on Sunday, December 7th last, have travelled to Ely, his luggage then including his golf sticks." Or does he "Compound for sins he is inclined to by damning those he has no mind to?" We will ask his lordship when we see him. Meanwhile, we are bound to assume, having regard to his cloth, that he does not damn; not even on the golf links.

More Insurance Act Trouble.

"Dear Sir" begins a letter to us, "I am writing to you for advice I have a daughter her age is 23 she has been in service and has paid all her insurance up till she came home she went to the doctor and he sayed she had Castic carrah of the stomic and——" But we beg pardon, we find one shilling enclosed, so the letter is evidently intended for our Legal department, who will probably stomic it better than we can.

A Neutral Note

Sir Edward Grey's Note to the Powers with reference to outstanding questions in Southern Albania and the Aegean Islands raises no issues of international importance except as between the minor nations immediately concerned To urge that but for this fact it would hardly have been presented at the present juncture, would perhaps be scarcely fair to the Foreign Secretary; yet it is idle to deny that British diplomacy in the Near East has been peculiarly barren of result. Germany, speaking alternately from Berlin and Vienna, has had things pretty much her own way, and not least in the recent arrangement whereby she has acquired something more than the mere show of military authority at Constantinople

Getting On!

From the *Daily Graphic*:—"The simple truth is that we expect too much of our Cabinet Ministers; we foolishly double the duties of every Minister, and especially of the Prime Minister, by expecting him to consider not only his duty to his country, but also his duty to his Party. Perhaps after a few more generations of ceaseless, and largely dishonest, political strife we may evolve a saner method of choosing the King's Ministers." We assure our impatient contemporary that it won't be a matter of "generations" or anything half so tedious Poor old Party is already *in extremis*—and the Business Government is actually in sight.

"JOHN BULL'S" FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT—FAMOUS FOOTBALL JOURNALIST APPOINTED CONTROLLER.

We have received general congratulations upon our improved form of coupon, and we have now a further and important announcement to make.

In future the Controller of our Football Competition Department, the person responsible for its general conduct, will be Mr. J. J. McWeeney, who for many years was the writer of "The Wisdom Shop" in the London "Football Star," and is further known to every follower of football as "McW.," of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle," and has been a noted football writer for various other leading publications. We feel sure this announcement will give widespread satisfaction to the thousands upon thousands of football followers who know Mr. McWeeney as a football expert. He takes control of the Football Competition with the present issue

Owing to the intervention of the Christmas holidays, we are unable to announce the result of our Sixth Football Competition until next week.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

An excess of virtue some people assails
At the death and the birth of a year;
They make, while the mood of repentance prevails,
Resolutions precise and severe:
But, alas for the weakness of human resolves!
The first strong temptation their promise absolves.

Fair maidens declare they'll not flirt with the boys,
But walk circumspectly and prim;
And young men forswear the delirious joys
Of the bubbles that bead at the brim:
But soon a fall follows their virtuous pride—
The maiden is kissed, the youth drunk "to the wide"!

So, seeing how quickly the firmest of vows
Is broken and sent to the deuce,
How the will to humanity's frailty bows,
I merely remark: "What's the use?"
For there seems to remain only one sane conclusion,
Which is, TO RESOLVE TO MAKE NO RESOLUTION.

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. Below we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For attributing the decrease in the number of Christmas shoppers during the persistent rain of December 23rd to "the admirable effectiveness" of its "Please Shop Early Movement."

THE EVENING NEWS
Takes the Biscuit.

We will give 10s. *to the sender of any "Biscuit" used. Should the same item be received from more than one person, the amount will be paid to the sender of the letter first opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings, a sufficient portion must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and the date of issue. Envelopes must be addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

(As will be seen, the feature usually appearing under this heading has been slightly altered, and will be found, under the title of "Printer's Pie," on page 20.)

AN OPEN LETTER TO "JOHN BULL."

The following Open Letter appears in the *Competitors' Journal* of December 20th, addressed to the Editor of JOHN BULL:—

SIR,—You are so used to writing open letters to other folk that it may be a bit of a novelty for you to receive one yourself. My object in writing to you is to say how glad I am that you devoted three pages of JOHN BULL to explaining the facts about the attempt made to bluff you over your Football competition.

The veiled suggestions in *Truth* had to be dealt with It was a pity, however, that they did not consult you before rushing into print, as your inquiry may have been considerably hampered. I may add that I knew all the facts before the *Truth* article appeared, but refrained from publishing them as I realised the harm such publicity might do.

Anyhow, you, with characteristic frankness, have told everybody about it, and it is clear that JOHN BULL can still "look the whole world in the face." After your exposure of the ruffians who attempted to twist you, I feel sure the entry for your next Football competition will go up with a bound.

We thank the Editor of our enterprising little contemporary—and wish him the Compliments of the Season!

Your knowledge of Football form may be worth £2,000. Now is your opportunity. Final Coupon

1914—AND AFTER?

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING OF THE YEAR.

By the time this issue is fairly in circulation, 1913 will be no more; the year with the unlucky numerals will be gone for ever, to join its predecessors in the vault o' Time. Personally, we hailed it as a lucky year being accustomed to figures, we said to ourselves, we said. "1 and 9 make 10; 10 and 1 make 11, and 11 and 3 make 14; and 14 is the double strength of 7, the luckiest figure in the world." And so we set out, a year ago full of hope and confidence that before the clock struck twelve at midnight on December 31st, we should have left our troubles behind, and should be found standing at "Attention," awaiting the signal to go full steam ahead! And lo! it was so And thus it comes about, dear reader, that to-day Thursday, January 1st, 1914, we go forth with firm step, proud spirit, and brave heart—to take our share in the things and happenings of the New Year.

A BIG YEAR.

And we want you to come with us. It is to be a big year—a *very* big year. You doubtless remember that twelve months ago we unburdened our mind, and our heart, of certain somewhat unconventional New Year's Thoughts. We expressed the view that at a specified moment,—about the time of the winter solstice, as astronomers call it, all the world changed—and that you and we and every one of us, received from Nature's mighty storehouse of Vital Force—humanised electricity—a new supply, to be used by us, in our wisdom or our folly, for twelve months, and then again to be replenished, *unless, in the meantime, it had all escaped from our bodies* and flown back into the great Sea of Life and left us what is called "dead." And the same process has just happened once more. To-day we are new men and women. And we shall require all the Force at our command. Has it ever occurred to you that there have not been many really big years in the history of the world? You see, we are in the habit of diluting the new and healthy "spirit" which we absorb every year with a huge quantity of Convention—and that invariably kills it. But this *is* to be a big year. The 1914 supply of "Karma"—you observe that we keep changing the name (we shall come to "soul" in the end)—is of an extra special quality. We cannot tell you why it is so (we are not astrologers—merely astronomers), but you see it here, and therefore it *is* so! And now let us consider a few of the big things which are to happen.

THE EMPIRE.

The "British Empire"! How many people have the remotest intelligent conception of the meaning of that phrase? They will rattle off "India, Canada, Africa, Australasia," and blow out their chests and say "They all belong to us." In 1914 we shall have a rude awakening. *Why has Ramsay Macdonald been sent to India by the Government?* Ever thought of that? *In the hope that he may be able to use his influence, as titular Labour leader of Great Britain, to damp the smouldering embers of native sedition.* And Canada? Have you any longer an atom of doubt that she is *nearly* ready to take her leave of us, and join hands with her *natural* ally, the United States? Did not we tell you, from the first, that those three *Dreadnoughts* would never come; and cannot you see how our confession of naval weakness has strengthened the hands o' the Dominion? Well, 1914 will see a marked advance in the movement for Canadian Independence. Africa? We have already warned our readers that all is not well here. "Brother Boer" is as slim as ever. The new Union was "rushed" through; 1914 will open the eyes of those who think it finally settled the racial war. Whilst as to Australia and the sister States, they are just beginning to feel their feet, and to want to walk alone. We make such fools of ourselves whenever any of their "statesmen" come over here, that it is our own fault if they get "swelled head," and if, before 1914 is spent, they begin to "assert" themselves.

HOME POLITICS.

And now we come to the greatest event of all—1914 will see the end of the present political system. It will die hard, and may not be more than mortally wounded during the year; *but it will never recover.* The old Party system has had its day. The Man in the Street is sick and tired of it; all the shrieking of the Party press, and all the shouting of the Party platforms, will be of no avail to save it. Mr. Asquith is very "tired"; Mr. Balfour has already gone; Mr. Churchill is in for an open rupture with the Christian Endeavour wing of his party; F. E. Smith is too "democratic" for his; Mr. Austen Chamberlain is left in his lonely furrow of Suspended Tariff Reform; the Labour men no longer count; Mr Redmond has shot his bolt; even the Speaker is weary of his job. Outside the House, politics are as dead as the dodo. Most of the Party "Associations" are bogus concerns, from which the serious people hold aloof; meetings are either boycotted by the public or "packed" by the wire-pullers—even the new Land Campaign is fizzling out. In a sentence, the Party game is nearly up; and 1914 will give it the knock-out blow. There will, of course, be the inevitable interregnum; and then will come the Business Government—whose first work will be to unite the Empire *in bonds of Commerce*, and incidentally to solve the Labour problem at home.

THE NEW RELIGION.

The New Year will also see the dawn of a new religion. Holyoake, the Secularist; Bradlaugh and Foote, the Agnostics; Booth, the Evangelist; Besant and Sinnett, the Theosophists; Crookes and Oliver Lodge, the Spiritualists; Spencer, the Philosopher; Darwin and Wallace, the Evolutionists; the hundred conflicting churches of Christendom; the Bishops the Priests the Parsons—and all the rest of them—have done their work. Unconsciously they have all been striving towards the same goal; and 1914 will find us realising that God and the Devil, Life and Death, Heaven and Hell, and all the other formulas of religious faith are but the feeble expressions of our puny minds when we approach the boundary line of human vision. Have you ever reflected what a mighty world the meanest human body must appear to the minutest microbe within it—what huge rivers of blood, and rocks of bone, and mountains of muscle must appal *its* mind? Yet as the greatest man is to the Universe, the most microscopic bacillus is to the human system the mightiest of giants. And 1914 will remind us of the grotesque impudence of Dogma and Creed. It will take us by the hand and bid us look up to the stars and realise that each and every one of them is, for aught we know, the centre of a world-system greater and grander than our own; then we shall be told to look lower down to the great Sun-centre of our little group of worlds—warming us, lighting us, vivifying us, from a distance of nearly a hundred millions of miles; then we shall be told of the aeons of time during which this old Earth revolved in Space before life came upon it, and of those in which it will still revolve when all life has left it—and long before our lesson is ended, we shall cry out for a nobler and a greater Religion than any of which the churches have yet dreamt.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED LIGHT.

THE BRITISH LION'S MUFFLED ROAR.

It is unthinkable that Britishers should regard the internal politics of South Africa as of purely local concern. For years to come, anxious eyes will follow every turn of State policy in the newest of our dominions. Nor has the grant of responsible self-government diminished the misgivings of unbiased observers. Racial, rather than political, cleavage governs the distribution of civil power and embitters the discussion of national issues. Dismissing for the moment the sinister conspiracy whereby desperadoes of the Hertzog type seek to inflame slumbering passions, it yet remains true that the predominant party in South African politics is Nationalist in spirit and in name. Louis Botha is to-day leader of the Boers as truly as when he rode at the head of their commandoes. So small a part is played by the Unionist or British Opposition to his Government, that it would puzzle many persons otherwise well informed to name, off hand, its titular chief. The Act of Union has intensified the anomaly of the Imperial situation. By its fusing operation, it has placed Cape Colony and Natal, than which there are no more loyal provinces in the Empire, under the direct dictation of men of alien blood. We by no means suggest that so grotesque a development was part of its set purpose. The scheme of Union was replete with "safeguards" nicely calculated to tip the balance of power in favour of the British population. Thus was hostility disarmed and misgiving allayed. But the prudence of statesmen has failed to avert the normal consequences of Dutch solidarity. In all public appointments in which it is possible for favouritism to be exhibited—and there are few in which such unfair discrimination is impossible—the man of Dutch blood is preferred.

TWISTING THE LION'S TAIL.

That so unlooked-for a development has materially disturbed the calculations of the Home Government, it were idle to deny. The prolonged ascendency of the Dutch in the Union Parliament of South Africa, has thrust grave Imperial problems to the fore, while it has, at the same time, redoubled the difficulty of their solution. The entrenchment of Boer influence at Pretoria has rendered effective Imperial suzerainty a matter of the utmost delicacy and difficulty, if not of impossibility. The present *impasse* in the matter of indentured Indian labour in Natal is eloquent of the impotence of Britain in the councils of the Union. While Lord Hardinge thundered his protest, Lord Gladstone was dumb.

Technically, and by the express terms of the South African Constitution, the British Government has a right to say to General Botha, "These men, though like yourself of alien speech, are loyal subjects of Britain. Moreover, their hands are unstained with British blood. We will do justice between you and them." But words like these have not been, and will not be, spoken. The Boer hates the Indian as his heart hates all native races. And the Boer rules at Cape Town and Pretoria. His sway extends to Downing Street. Thus Botha governs while Lord Gladstone merely reigns.

TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK.

It is not for us to discover reasons for a policy which may appear unworthy of our Imperial prestige. Readers familiar with our views upon the trend of South African affairs may find food for reflection in the fact that, for some reason or other, the Home Government is feverishly anxious to avoid the least friction with the South African Parliament. The heathen may rage and imagine vain things—as that they are British citizens and entitled to British protection—but nothing must be done to disturb the complacence of the Boer majority at Cape Town. Haply, there are excellent reasons fast locked in the archives of State. At the recent Nationalist conference at Cape Town, where General Hertzog stripped himself of the last rag of disguise, standing forth as a Republican, naked and unashamed, his rival, Botha, announced a forward policy contemplating the annexation of Rhodesia and other aggressive ends. It was as though the two men were vying with each other in the pride of racial pretension. No man in Botha's position can be utterly irresponsive to the strong undertow of reaction to which Hertzogism makes its appeal. The red light looms.

PHANTOM FAVOURS.

HOW DISCHARGED PRISONERS ARE "HELPED."

Service in the mercantile marine affords, perhaps, the most hopeful outlook for men, devoid of any special skill, whose "characters" have been ruined by a sentence of imprisonment. In this connection the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society is peculiarly active, and it is no uncommon thing for a vessel to number several discharged prisoners among its crew. The Society's nominees are introduced to an "agent" at the port of embarkation, who makes it his business to keep in touch with the agencies to which shipmasters are wont to repair in search of men. This plan of recruitment is open to serious objection, and is, we believe, uniformly condemned by those who have had practical experience of its working.

A particularly bad instance of its unhappy operation has recently come to our notice. An ex-prisoner, whom the Society desired to assist, was sent to Cardiff with a letter of introduction to an "agent" with whom they were wont to deal. On arrival at the port, he learned that the Society had paid the agent a sum of twenty-five shillings in respect of his board and lodging till such time as he should obtain employment. Mine host's activities were stimulated by the reflection that whether this period were short or long his payment in respect of the man's keep and shelter was fixed and unalterable. At the end of a week the man learned that there was a chance of obtaining employment upon a German cargo boat which had just discharged at the port. He eagerly "'signed on.' The nightmare of the unhappy man's first sea-voyage across the Bay to Spain and back in the worst of weather may well be left to the imagination. Suffice it that he returned in due course to London, sick at heart and broken in spirit, only to find that a certificate of discharge from a German ship was utterly useless as a passport to future employment. The well-intentioned efforts of the D.P.A.S. had availed him less than nothing.

That these and similar circumstances are within the knowledge of the Society we do not for one moment suggest. Neither are we so much concerned to resist the plea that a man must lie on the bed he has made. A recently convicted criminal can scarcely expect to tread "the primrose path of dalliance," even though he may have been guilty of but a single lapse. We rather seek to emphasise the futility of a scheme which, while involving a severe drain upon the Society's funds, defeats the very purpose which it is designed to effect.

'WARE BULBS.

ANOTHER "FAULT OF THE DUTCH"?

Johs. Telkamp, of Hellegom, Holland, a bulb-grower, advertises a "grand selection" for 10s., carriage paid. One of our readers sent a postal order, to be duly informed that the goods had been despatched per rail—the note bearing the following addition:—

> We took the liberty to add 500 extra bulbs to your order for the small sum of 5s. We have sent the goods *carriage paid* as advertised, but should feel extremely obliged if you would kindly pay these (*sic*) 5s. to the carrier. We are quite sure you will be content with this surplus stock parcel and if you are not in the position to plant them, we would kindly request you to give them away and we would credit or remit you the 5s., though of course it would be pleasant for us that you keep them at this very low rate.

As the goods were not delivered, our correspondent made application to the railway company, and found that although they were awaiting him they could not be released without the payment of the 5s. for the extra lot which it was sought to foist upon him. He protested in writing, and here is the Company's reply:—

> Our Goods Manager at Waterloo states that we have no alternative but to act upon the instructions of the carrier who handed us the bulbs. So far as we were concerned, we had no idea but that the 5s. represented freight charges. I regret I am unable to assist you further.

Our friend is paying the extra money, giving away the bulbs which he did not order, and claiming a refund. We hope he may get it. But why should he be called upon to do this?

£2,000 can be won—£1,000 must be won—for easy Cup Tie Forecasts. See page 28.

THE "LIMIT," LIMITED.

WHY DID THE "DAILY HERALD" EDITOR GET THE PUSH?

Hundreds of readers of the *Daily Herald*—"run by rebels for rebels"—are asking why Mr. Lapworth got ousted from his position as Editor. In its short career the *Herald* has swallowed up many thousands of pounds subscribed by the working classes. This is, however, in itself no reason for criticism, and we have often given the little paper a pat on the back, because we admired its outspoken independence. The title of the syndicate now owning it—The Limit, Limited—is explained in a curious manner. A few months ago the *Herald* virulently attacked Mr. Lloyd George, who disdained legal proceedings, contemptuously styling his assailant "The Limit," a title which was immediately adopted by those behind the venture. The Chancellor surely possessed foresight, for to-day the management, as will be seen, has reached the boundary of autocracy. After passing through various periods of insolvency, the *Herald* was acquired by four persons, namely, Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. Francis Meynell, Mr. Charles Lapworth and Mrs. Robert Williams, the Board of Directors consisting of the three first named. On December 1st a meeting of Directors was held, at which Mr. Lapworth, the Editor, was called upon to resign. He refused, whereupon a vote was taken. Lapworth naturally voted in his own favour, Meynell against him, and also Lansbury, the Chairman, gave his casting vote against him. We imagine that if its Editor had been an engine-driver a sympathetic strike would have been demanded by the "rebel" journal; instead of which, not a word is allowed to be printed regarding the matter. Members of the Herald League, who subscribe generously to the paper, had suspicions regarding the state of affairs, and various branches wrote letters on the subject, but no notice whatever was taken of these communications. This silence is the more astonishing in view of the journal's professed policy of outspokenness.

We think the members of the Herald League should persist in their attempts to clear up the mystery of Mr. Lapworth's dismissal, and that, in view of their financial support, they are entitled to know specifically whether he received any, and if so what, compensation; whether this payment was offered him on condition that he "kept his mouth shut"; whether the policy of the paper is to be changed, so as to conform more closely to the personal ideas of Mr. Francis Meynell, the head of the Catholic Publishing Company; how far the wirepullers of the *Herald* were responsible for the ridiculous attitude it took up when their pet "Mister" Larkin refused to speak under the chairmanship of a gentleman who had been compelled to divorce his wife; how far the *Herald* authorities were responsible for pushing on "Mister" Larkin in his wild career of insulting English Trade Unionists who have been pouring their hard-earned money into Dublin—in short, whether the journal, is not now playing into the hands of Mr. Murphy and the clerics.

We wonder if Mr. Lapworth's Italian trip had anything to do with his "resignation"!

STATE KIDNAPPERS.

SLAVERY UNDER THE UNION JACK.

On February 7th, 1909, a boy of twelve years of age, the son of respectable parents, was hauled up before the Magistrates at Rochford for a petty theft, and although it was his first offence he was ordered to be confined in an Industrial School until he attained the age of 16. He reached this age in February last. When the lad was expected home his widowed mother—as the parents of so many other youthful offenders have done—received a great shock, for, instead of being able to greet her boy, she received a printed notice warning her that, by the Children Act, he was to remain under the control of the School Managers until he became 18, and that if meantime—although the punishment imposed by the Magistrate had been suffered—she "harboured" or "concealed" the child she might be fined £20 or imprisoned for two months with hard labour.

As usual, on inquiry, it was found that the poor lad had been leased to a Welsh farmer until he attained the age of 18. Naturally, his mother is heart-broken.

AN ABIDING ABUSE.

SHOPKEEPER FINED FOR NO CRIME.

Mr. J. A. Crichton, of Ferry Road, Leith, who carries on a composite business, including the sale of newspapers and tobacco, was summoned to the Sheriff's Court "for that on several closing half-days he had exposed stationery for sale against the form of the Statute." There was no suggestion that Mr. Crichton had sold so much as a pen-nib or a sheet of notepaper in contravention of the Act. Indeed, it was shown that a mean attempt on the part of the Shops Act Inspector to trap him into an illicit sale had miserably failed. The whole sum of his offending consisted in his failure to cover up goods in a manner deemed "reasonable and practicable" by the Inspector. In the course of cross-examination this amiable officer admitted that in certain cases he had given tradesmen hints "to cover up a bit more"—a favour which for some reason or other was withheld from Mr. Crichton.

In these circumstances we say that any tribunal of ordinary intelligence would have discharged the defendant, perhaps with a caution. His strict observance of the more salient requirements of the law was an earnest of his desire to abide by it. At the most, he had been guilty of a purely technical offence, turning entirely upon the Inspector's construction of a vague and indefinite phrase in the Statute. The essence of the offence charged against him obviously consists in exposing *for sale*, and the proved absence of any intention or offer to sell should have argued most strongly for his acquittal. The Sheriff, in his wisdom, held a contrary view. Mr. Crichton was fined five shillings with no less than two guineas costs—an unreasonable and excessive penalty which calls for emphatic protest.

Our view that the Shops Act stands in need of drastic revision requires no reiteration. It is enforced by daily instances of injustice and oppression. In particular, the stupid and useless clause under which Mr. Crichton was convicted should be wholly repealed. Pending this and other necessary amendments, actual evidence of an attempt to sell in defiance of the Act should alone justify prosecution.

FUDDLED FINANCE.

A CASE FOR INQUIRY.

The failure of the well-known leather firm trading as Messrs. A. Brooksbank and Sons, of Bermondsey, has precipitated widespread disaster in the trade. To the general public, the recently issued statement of affairs is chiefly notable as evidence of the utter confusion which appears to have characterised the financial operations of the firm. Mr. A. C. Palmer, a chartered accountant, who had closely scrutinised the available records, declared at a meeting of creditors that the debtor must have been insolvent for many years, but that he had striven to vitalise his declining business by means of heavy loans advanced upon his personal security. Much of this money was subscribed by relatives and friends, who now claim to rank with ordinary trade creditors. Seeing that the realisable assets of the concern amount to only £1,860 as against liabilities of £126,000, the matter is unlikely to excite acute controversy among those immediately concerned. It is clear, however, that for many years past the debtor has pursued a lamentable system of finance, the ramification of which can only be traced with the utmost difficulty. In these circumstances, and in view of the heavy losses sustained by trade creditors, we endorse the demand for strict investigation voiced at the creditors' meeting. As an outcome of this disaster, several minor firms have since collapsed, and in the interests of the commercial community in general searching inquiry is imperative. In accepting the inevitable, the chairman of the meeting expressed the widely held view that "the debtor had met with a chapter of accidents, brought about, however, by mixing financial and other matters with his leather business, which might have been a success." Hard upon this came the suggestion that large sums had been lost in speculation entirely unconnected with the leather trade. This is clearly not fair dealing, and these and similar allegations should be searchingly investigated.

Send as many Football entries as you like—but don't delay. Final Coupon this week.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

'Tis rumoured that the Kaiserin
Stepped Wilhelm and the Prince between,
And that her efforts did not cease
Until they had patched up a peace.

John Bull, sick of the Law's delays,
Warns judges to amend their ways,
Curtail their holidays, and do
A graceful slope at seventy-two.

Says Austen Chamberlain: "Beware;
Though dinner invites fill the air,
Fond hopes of peace I've never shared:
The storm may break—so be prepared!"

In Leeds the strikers fret and fume,
Who thought to plunge the town in gloom,
Because the gas (unlike their own)
Light on the darkness still has thrown.

The Minister for War still dreams
We've mounts enough for all, it seems:
Lord Esher, on the contrary,
None for the Terriers can see.

To Paris Winston Churchill goes,
And after that?—Why, no one knows;
Some say he's bound for Germany,
Which is denied—so wait and see.

1913.

Unroll the curtain, Father Time. The play
So widely billed has fallen rather flat;
The cast is incomplete, spectators say
They are not sure what they are looking at.
Is this a tragic drama—turned burlesque?
Or look we on some comedy's grotesque
Unfeeling satire? You, at least, must know.
Instruct us then—still, let the curtain go.

Alack! as yet we cannot grasp the plot,
What means this diction rapid and diffuse?
The posturings—we understand them not,
They do not thrill, nor yet do they amuse.
The action flags, the "stall" aweary nods,
What wit there is seems aimed to please the gods;
Yet tho' to us the actors miss their cue,
Come, Time, explain!—for we must look to you.

The boards are dark, the mounting very mean,
The gallery's applause is all we hear;
The prompter's voice is loud (behind the scene),
The declamation else is insincere.
We'd like to hiss the farce—but what's the use
When all the stage seems going to the deuce?
Ring down the curtain, pray—but hold! good
Father Time—
We want to laugh—let's have the pantomime.

ERNEST F. ALLNUTT.

1914.

"Nineteen Fourteen?" Ah, I thought so;
Your fresh features made it plain,
That another New Year youngster
Graced the steps of Time again.
Come, I see across your shoulders,
That you bear a mystic scroll;
Will you let me, for a moment,
The small document unroll?
There are written precious secrets,
Of events that are to be;
Whether Britain's mighty *Dreadnoughts*
Will shell those of Germany.
Whether Ulster will be covered
With a sea of awful red.
Whether Asquith, or another,
Will be at the nation's head.
Who will win the classic Boat-race,
And the Epsom Derby, too;
Whether postmen will cease knocking,
Whether Larkin will win through.
Ah, and there, too, are the letters
Telling who will pass away:
And the hosts of mighty atoms
Who will see the light of day.
But the youngster frowned in anger,
As he turned away from me;
All I saw beneath his shoulders
Was the motto, "Wait and See!"

GEORGE S. ASTINS.

"What's Wrong?" new Picture Competition with over 300 prizes. See this week's "Mary Bull."

SCARING "SINNERS."

EVANGELISTIC BULLYING AT GLASGOW.

That there is a lot of fervour about the gentlemen who are conducting, as we write, the Chapman-Alexander Mission in Glasgow is undoubted. But why do they constitute themselves evangelistic bullies? To be precise, at a recent evening meeting when their audience were singing the last hymn the preacher shouted, "No one must leave the hall without permission," for all the world as if he were a legally constituted jailer. After this sort of thing it is nothing that Christian workers go among the audience soliciting recruits for the penitent form, inquiring "Are you saved? Are you a Christian?" The general effect of this alternate process of bullying from the platform and cross-examination among the audience is probably to frighten a great many people into the ranks of the "saved," where they are counted like sheep in a fold or pheasants after a kill. It is not improbable that people are frightened into being saved. Once while Dr. Torrey was praying from the platform the helpers worked along the seats. One of them presently arrived at a journalist, placed his arm affectionately round his shoulders and whispered in his near ear, "Brother, how goes it with you? Are you saved?" "No, no," came the soft answer; "*I'm* the reporter." Seldom is there any lasting "uplift." Here and there, no doubt, a woman or a man is held awhile in the grip of new emotions theatrically worked up; then things, innocent in themselves, become things of the Devil; and religiousness a bigotry, an intolerance, and a folly to the point of mania. When, in others, the theatrical stimulus is withdrawn, things evil and things good get back into their true place and unexaggerated prospective, and no harm is done. No doubt the Glasgow papers will presently report the number of persons saved by the Chapman-Alexander Mission, not of course counting babes in arms, boys in knickers, and girls in short frocks. If they will also obtain the names and addresses, and get to know what precisely the people have been saved *from*, they will lend to the statistics of the Mission a value which they do not at present possess. Missioners of the Chapman-Alexander type do not realise, as the late Bishop Creighton realised, that the good are never as good as they think themselves and the sinful never as sinful as the good think them.

"CARDIFF SOLICITOR AND HIS CLERK."

MR. J. S. DAVID DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS.

With reference to our remarks in a recent issue concerning the allegation that Mr. J. S. David, a Cardiff solicitor, had discharged a clerk named Bindon because the clerk's brother had been arrested and charged with murder, Mr. David has lost no time in filing his defence. In a long letter to us he makes the following points:—

1. That "the only possible pretext for repeating the statement that Mr. Bindon was discharged on account of his brother was the unfortunate coincidence that the dates to some extent correspond. What I have said and now say emphatically is that this clerk was not discharged because he was the brother of the accused."

2. That "the day after the crime" he told Bindon to come the following morning. "Instead of doing so he absented himself from business for four consecutive days."

3. That in a testimonial he had prepared for Bindon he had referred to his clerk's "absence and inattention," but that he afterwards struck out the reference on Bindon's representation that it would damage him with a prospective employer.

4. That the Cardiff *Mail and Express* "prepared and published" Bindon's letter "simply for their own glorification and to vilify me."

5. That "therefore I can only conclude your article was written to gratify the spite or hatred of my enemies."

Writing between the end of the turkey and the beginning of the New Year, we have no special desire to retort upon Mr. David or to subject his defence to critical analysis, and we will only say that if our readers, the Cardiff *Mail and Express*, and the clerk concerned are able to regard Mr. David's statements as an adequate answer and a complete refutation, we shall not attempt to challenge their judgment.

"RECORD" RASCALITY.

HARD CASE OF AN "ENGLISH" COMPANY'S EX-EMPLOYEE.

In a recent issue we reviewed the shady history of the English Record Company, culminating in the sale of its business for a song to the Albion Record Company, controlled by Herr Otto Bruno, of Berlin. We are now able to record some peculiarly shabby treatment experienced at the hands of the "English" concern. We recently received a call from a gentleman who formerly managed the Company's depots at Bradford and Leeds. He informs us that on a Saturday in January last he disbursed £20 from his private purse in payment of the weekly wages of employees, expecting to receive a covering cheque from headquarters by a later post. He had frequently adopted this course out of consideration for his men, who would otherwise have been left without wages over the week-end. On the day in question, however, the expected remittance did not arrive. In its stead, a person, unknown to our informant, appeared on the scene with an intimation that he had been authorised to take possession on behalf of the debenture-holders of the concern, which was not at this time in liquidation. The manager's anxiety was scarcely lessened by the fact that his own salary and commission were then £80 in arrears.

Application for the money having failed to elicit any satisfactory response, our informant instructed a solicitor to commence an action against the firm. On the very day that the Court awarded judgment to the manager for £100 and costs, the Company went into voluntary liquidation, and he was thus cruelly cheated out of his claim.

A man named Edwards, who was formerly chief clerk to the Company, was appointed Manager and Receiver by the Court in the winding-up proceedings. Edwards was thoroughly familiar with every detail of the firm's obligations, and it is a pity that our informant did not apply for a public examination of the Directors and officers, of whom, of course, Edwards was one. The recent transfer makes it extremely unlikely that he will ever recover a penny of his just debt.

Meanwhile, the Albion Company are merrily carrying on the old game, collecting, if report be true, from £400 to £500 per week from the dupes of their "English" vendors.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

GRIMSBY COMMITTEE'S SUSPICIOUS MOVE.

The borough of Grimsby has hitherto enjoyed the services of two Elective Auditors, gentlemen chosen by the ratepayers to watch and protect their interests in the matter of civic finance. The present auditors appear to have discharged their duties with laudable thoroughness, one of them, Mr. Frank Kirby, having held office without opposition for a period of seven years, while the other, Mr. T. H. Shipman, has served twenty-two years in all.

From its inception a stipend of £31 10s. per annum has attached to the office of Elective Auditor. This sum has been generally recognised as a fair remuneration. Early in November, however, at a meeting of the Finance Committee, it was resolved to recommend the Council to reduce the salaries of the auditors by £21 a year. This drastic reduction was proposed with the avowed object of driving out the existing tenants of the office, and thus rendering the positions unworthy of the ambition of suitable men.

The action of the Committee has naturally given rise to considerable speculation among the ratepayers, by whom Messrs. Kirby and Shipman are held in high esteem.

In virtually dispensing with the services of gentlemen holding office by a popular vote, the Finance Committee has invited searching criticism. There is, indeed, a growing impression that the very qualities which have commended the Auditors to the general body of ratepayers have sufficed to render their services unacceptable to a section of the Borough Council. In the course of his remarks to the Committee, Councillor Crosby sneeringly referred to the Auditors as "watchdogs" and "amateur detectives," and wound up with the generous observation that "as they were bound by law to have Elective Auditors, they should give them the minimum possible pay." It would be interesting to trace to its sources this dislike of "detective" vigilance.

Waiting at the Bank for YOU. £2,000 for Forecast of the First Round Cup Ties.

"Either a fool—or a physician"

Was it Solomon who said the man of forty was "either a fool or a physician"?

It is an old saying, anyway, and has been brought up to date by another wise man who said that most men of forty have hammered out from life some sort of workable practical philosophy.

Nothing teaches like experience, and twenty years of experience have taught the man of forty how to combat Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica and Lumbago, the hereditary results of the indiscretions of a past generation. He has learned that they can only be remedied by daily regular treatment whenever the trouble shows signs of activity. He *counteracts* the symptoms by the resource that science has placed in his hands—the daily morning dose of Krüschen Salts.

It is a simple remedy—just half a teaspoonful in a tumbler of hot water, taken when rising—*but it is the same simple remedy that makes the waters of Continental Spas famous for their curative powers.*

The case of Rheumatism or Gout that Kruschen Salts cannot Benefit has yet to be discovered.

Modern science has discovered exactly what the body requires to combat predisposition to disease—restoration of the accurate balance of three salts, the disturbance of which is the invariable forerunner of internal disorder.

Salts of sodium, potassium, and magnesium—it is the accurate balance of these three essentials to healthy life that Kruschen Salts restore they are the main ingredients of Krüschen Salts.

That is the lesson that the man of forty has learned. By the daily use of Krüschen Salts he fortifies his system against attack, disperses the uric acid that tends to accumulate in the system under modern conditions, and cleanses the interior of his body as regularly as he does the exterior.

What the man of forty has learned wise men of all ages may profit by—it is the lesson of experience.

Krüschen Salts

LIEBIG'S ANALYSIS:—
SODA SUL. H.
SODA CHLORID.
SODA PHOSPH.
MAGN. S. SULPH.
MA. NES. CHLOR.
POTAS. SU. PH.
POTA. CHLORID.

Of all good Chemists, Grocers and Stores, including the Army and Navy Stores, Barker's Civil Service Supply Association, Harrods, Junior Army and Navy, Selfridge's, Whiteley's, the 71 Branches of Timothy Whites, Ltd., the 82 Branches of Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Parke's Drug Stores, the 2 Branches of Lewis & Burrows and the 548 Branches of Boots Cash Chemists. Direct (U.K.) on receipt of 1/6 post free.

ONE SIZE
ONE PRICE
1/6
Per Bottle

B. GRIFFITHS HUGHES (Krüschen), Ltd., 68, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

CO-OPERATIVE MAGGOTS.

A "LIVELY" NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY.

We have read with disgust the account of the prosecution of the Nottingham Co-operative Society, Ltd., for an offence peculiarly obnoxious to everybody, that of having putrid meat on its premises for sale as human food. Let us recall the facts. Early one morning the Inspector of the Corporation made a surprise visit to the premises where various kinds of meat are turned into table delicacies. At a bench he found two men engaged in making sausages; one was cutting up for the purpose stinking, putrid and maggoty ham. In various tins about the place he found other ham in a like state. It had been boiled in the condition in which it was found, maggots and all, though on this account we do not find that an additional summons was taken out against the Society for cruelty to animals.

Having seen and smelt what was going on above, the Inspector was curious to see and smell what was going on below. As the basement was in darkness, he smelt before he saw; the stink, in his words, was "sickening and putrefactive." Proceeding to locate it with a light, he perceived that he had entered a room used for storing meat and curing pigs' flesh. Hams in curing were nauseous in their putridity and swarming with living maggots. In the next room he found rotting meat infested with nests of maggots. It was not a case of ounces or of pounds, but of hundredweights of it. The explanation made about the presence of this disgusting food-slush being found upon the premises was of the kind generally made in such cases. It was the sole responsibility of the Manager; he had neglected his duty in not getting rid of it; it was not intended to use the stuff as food at all; the impression we receive from his self-inculpating evidence being that it was upon the premises for ornamental purposes or for miraculous distillation into rose, wallflower, carnation and other perfumes. On the whole, we are not startled that the managerial explanation did not convince the magistrates. They fined the Company £20 and £10 10s. costs.

Wondering what customers and shareholders think of these revelations concerning their beloved "Co-op.," we imagine the idea of their having possibly or probably made "divies" out of rotten meat converted into table delicacies they may have themselves consumed is not calculated to inspire them with sweet thoughts of the past or with unlimited trust in the future. One of the dietetic philosophers has observed that the only thing essential to the perfect digestion of a sausage is unlimited confidence. Whatever else may happen we may safely prophesy that there will be a widespread slump in the sausages of the Nottingham Co-operative Society, Ltd., for some time to come. In future it will be as monstrous an affront to mention sausages in the households of the Directors as it is to mention rope in the house of a hangman. If we were a Nottingham householder we should regard not only one, but the whole of the Society's table delicacies as suspect. Leaving sausages aside, every time we looked at a pork pie or a polony we should wonder whether or not the maggots had been thoroughly cooked.

REDMOND IN A RAGE.

YANKEE SHARK WHO DOESN'T LIKE "JOHN BULL."

Periodically we have reason to criticise Yankee swindlers on both sides of "the herring pond." Amongst the fraternity who have come under our notice is G. F. Redmond, of 262, Washington Street, Boston, Mass. He is one of the usual "mail order" sharks who flood this country with literature. Getting tired of his "follow up" epistles, one of our readers sent him a marked copy of JOHN BULL. In acknowledging the paper this is what he says:—

> Apparently the Editor of JOHN BULL is desirous of giving me some free advertising. I hope he keeps it up. I showed the article to a friend of mine this morning, an Englishman, who came over about a year ago and who is now engaged in business here in Boston. He told me all about the Editor of JOHN BULL. He told me that the publisher of that publication gets out one of the most rotten yellow sheets in England.

The Yankee twister is quite welcome to the free advertisement. On his own showing, it lost him *one* customer.

A DARK HORSE.

CHARY CHILIANS' CHEERFUL CHEEK.

There are countless varieties of the emigration dodge, and Englishmen seeking employment abroad will do well to proceed with the utmost caution. In particular, they should avoid "buying a pig in a poke," lest there should prove to be much more poke than pig. A Manchester reader invites our comment upon a proposal recently made to him by Messrs. McColl and Rogers, a firm of export dealers carrying on business in the City of Glasgow.

Our correspondent, who is a qualified draughtsman, got into communication with the Glasgow people through the medium of an advertisement in the daily press. He speedily learned that the dealers were acting as agents for a Chilian firm, who required the services of a competent draughtsman for a term of three years. For some reason or other, the name of the principals was not disclosed, the form of application for the position, together with an explanatory letter, being typewritten upon the office notepaper of Messrs. McColl and Rogers, and left without trace of signature. Had an ambassadorial stipend been attached to the vacant post, instead of the paltry £16 a month offered, a more inquisitorial set of conundrums could scarcely have been propounded to aspiring candidates. Thirteen questions—ominous number—were preferred, in the course of which the applicant's height, weight, health, habits, family circumstances and personal history were intimately reviewed. Finally, our correspondent was invited to express his willingness to sign a three or four years' contract, "the terms of which we would send you at a later date." The covering letter was couched in terms of austere morality, replete with solemn warning to headstrong and impetuous youth. Here is a typical extract:—

> In the event of your being selected to fill the vacancy, you would be coming to a country where healthy amusements are scarce, where good and real friends are very few, where drink and women form the principal distractions to those inclined that way, and to many who thought they were not.

And again:—

> The main thing we want to disabuse your mind of is that you are coming out here to have a good time. You would not. You would come out to a lot of hard work, but if you are the man, there is a future for you.

Having furnished the anonymous oracle with as much information with reference to his past career as he thought fit to reveal, our correspondent eagerly awaited further disclosures. It will scarcely be credited that Messrs. McColl and Rogers actually submitted to him the terms of a draft agreement for three years' service, and still gave no inkling of their client's identity. Possible reasons for the extraordinary reticence are aptly suggested in a further clause of the entertaining epistle from which we have already quoted. We read:—

> After signing this contract, we must insist that its contents be not discussed with any person but ourselves. This is mainly because we find there are so many jealous people in this world who, thinking you have something better than they, have tried to point out how nicely you have been "had."

Our correspondent has wisely declined to take any such foolish leap in the dark. Clean daylight never yet hurt a square deal.

APOLOGY TO PEOPLE'S SUPPLY COMPANY, 315, UPPER STREET, ISLINGTON.

In our issue of June 7th, 1913, we published an article under the heading:—

"A DIRTY DODGE."

"PENNY FRIGHTENERS" AT HALF PRICE—

in the course of which we reflected adversely upon the methods of the People's Supply Company, of 315, Upper Street, Islington, in collecting accounts from their customers.

We have now had the opportunity of inquiring into the conduct of this firm in their business. We are satisfied that they are of good standing and have treated their customers uniformly with proper consideration. We regret that we should have been misled into any reflection upon them by our dislike for "penny frighteners," a form of demand with which we are now satisfied this firm is not associated.

Begin the New Year with "Bullets"—a pastime with money in it. See page 30.

A real opportunity for you in 1914.

A Situation at £200 a year offered to our readers by the great firm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

IF you are a man ambitious to succeed in the world of business, or if you are not already in receipt of more than £200 a year, or even if you wish to obtain a cash prize of £100, send the form at the foot of this page for full particulars of the most remarkable offer ever made to readers of this paper.

During 1914 the great firm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., will require for a certain position on their staff a well-trained business man or woman. The commencing salary for one year certain will be £200 per annum, but the situation is an unusual one, and will offer scope for advancement to a higher position in one of the world's greatest and most enterprising organisations.

It has been decided to throw this appointment open to a competitive examination in general business knowledge, which will be conducted on behalf of Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., by the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd., of 54, Surrey Street, London, W.C., to whom all communications must be addressed.

Or £100 in Cash.

An alternative First Prize of £100 in Cash is offered in the event of the winner being already employed, or for some reason not desiring to take up such an important situation.

In addition there will be a Second Prize of £25 in cash, a Third of £10 in Cash, and nine other valuable prizes.

THE JUDGES.

The following well-known gentlemen have kindly consented to act as judges:—

Sir WILLIAM FARLOAR, Bart. (ex-Lord Mayor of London.)

Sir GEORGE RIDDELL (Director News of the World, Ltd.; Director; Country Life, Ltd.)

Sir JOSEPH LYONS (Managing Director: J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.)

T. J. BARRATT, Esq. (Chairman: A. and F. Pears, Ltd.)

A. W. GAMAGE, Esq. (Managing Director: A. W. Gamage, Ltd.)

H. F. LE BAS, Esq. (Governing Director: Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.; Director: George Newnes Ltd.)

These names and the fact that the Examination is being held for the purpose of finding the best man or woman for a post in a firm so justly renowned as that of Messrs. Gamage's are a sufficient guarantee of the fairness of the test.

Nature of the Examination.

The Examination will consist of 30 questions in Business Knowledge, and no question in it will be found beyond the capacity of an average business mind. As it is impossible to give here the whole of the particulars, a brief Prospectus has been prepared, indicating the character and scope of the Examination, which will be sent free of charge and without any obligation on receipt of the coupon at the bottom of the column.

It is distinctly understood that sending for the Prospectus of the Examination does not commit any reader to the intention of entering the Competition. You may be already engaged in business for your own benefit, or may be earning a higher salary.

Why You Should Enter.

But the Examination project will nevertheless interest you. You may wish to bring it to the attention of some employee, some junior, or some friend. It is quite certain that the research and thought which would be bestowed on business subjects will make your employee or subordinate more useful in his or her work.

Although you may not wish for the £200 salary, the alternative prize of £100 in money may appeal to you.

How It Concerns You.

But you, if engaged in business, will undoubtedly find the Examination interesting and informing. It will enlarge your views on Commercial Life. It will lead you to the consideration of problems which might never have occurred to you. It will unquestionably suggest new trains of business thought, and perhaps bring you into contact with ideas having practical value. Without consuming many hours of your time it will offer you profitable recreation during the long evenings. And, in addition, there are eleven substantial prizes.

To the Ambitious Man or Woman.

But, on the other hand, if you are employed in work which does not give full scope to your talents, or are not paid according to your merits, or see no prospects and security of employment before you, this Business Examination offers a unique opportunity. The commencing salary is substantial, but it only represents the beginning of what a man or woman of thorough business training can aspire to.

The great house of Gamage's is world-famous for its fair dealing and enterprise, and for the excellence of the goods it sells. In 35 years the goodwill of its customers has built it up from a tiny shop to the huge organisation it is to-day. The offer of a responsible position in such a firm does not occur often. But for that very reason it is an opportunity that no ambitious man or woman ought to miss.

The Only Condition.

The only condition is that competitors must own the Business Encyclopædia, for Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., know from experience that the man or woman who possesses and studies this work is the best possible man or woman to fill a responsible post like the present one. If you are interested in the offer of a commencing salary of £200 a year (or alternatively £100 in money) and eleven other prizes, write at once for the Prospectus

FREE COUPON.

This coupon entitles you to a full Prospectus of the Business Examination. It should be sent at once to avoid delay.

To THE CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, post free, and without any obligation on my part, full prospectus of the Business Examination for the position with A. W. GAMAGE, LTD., and particulars of the Business Encyclopædia, and of your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

NAME .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCLXXX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A SAD BELFAST CASE.

In a back street in Belfast, the city upon which the eyes of the world are now centred, live a man, his wife, and six children, the eldest of whom is 13 years and the youngest one month. The man has, through no fault of his own, been out of work for eight weeks. He is a painter by trade, and even in good times his employment is of only a casual nature. In previous times of slackness his wife has invariably turned out to work in the mill, and so the little family were kept going. This time, however, fate has played him false, for not only has he no work himself, but his wife is unable to do anything to relieve the situation. Of course, there was the Maternity benefit, but that soon dwindled away in payment of the nurse and back rent. The National Insurance allowance is also stopped. A clergyman writes us, strongly supporting the man's appeal for assistance. Clothes are badly wanted for the woman and children, and if any of our readers would care to send parcels direct we shall be pleased to forward the full address. As we go to press we hear that there is likelihood of the man obtaining employment at the Docks early in the New Year, but in the meantime the family must be clad and nourished, while there is also the landlord to be satisfied.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCLXXVIII.—Mrs. L. N., parcel.

CCLXXVIII.—A. J. W., £1; B. L. A., 6d.; H. B. P., 6d.; A. T. S., 5s.; "Private," 5s.; B. B., 1s.; "Sevenoaks," 2s. 6d.; "Nurse S. S.," 1s.; "Parti Politicks," 2s. 6d.; W. H., 2s.; Mrs. and C. J. E., 5s.; A. G. L., 1s.; Mrs. S. H., 4s.; J. V., 2s.; E. G., 2s.; W. and K., 5s. 6d.; A. T., 1s.; "Jack and Emily," 3s.; L. B., 2s.; E. M. H., 3d.; "Elstow," 1s.; Mrs. F. J. H., parcel; "Tom," 1s.; A. McC., 2s. 6d.; "Working-Men's Club and Institute" (Abercarn), 10s. 6d.; "Faith," 4s.; V.W.K., 2s 6d.; C.V. R.W., 10s.; "In His Name," 2s. 6d.; L., 2s.

CCLXXIX.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Edinburgh," 1s. 6d.; "West," £3; J. H. N., 2s.; G. F. E., 10s.; "A Bolton Rag Stabber," 9s. 6d.; "Borderer," 10s.; W. R. P., 21s.; "Wilhelminna Muggins," 5s.; A. M., 2s. 6d.; J. W. H., 1s.; J. W. M., 2s. 6d.; W. H. A., 2s.; "Painter," 4s.; H. M. B. (Musselburgh), 5s.; "E.," 2s. 6d.; W. C. W., 2s. 6d.; "Mite," 9d.; "Link," 2s. 6d.; R. J. I., 5s.; Mrs. L. T., 2s.; "A Neighbour," 10s.; A. H., 1s.; "Well Wisher," 2s. 6d.; "Straw Hats," 2s. 6d.; "Tinribs," 1s.; "Benares," 10s.; G. N. S., 2s. 6d.

The winner of the £500 prize in our 62nd "Bullets" Competition, has kindly forwarded us £5, to be given to the subject of "Human Document" CCLXXIX.

The winner of the first prize in our 61st "Bullets" Competition has also sent us a cheque for £5, which we have allocated as follows:—CCLXXVIII., £2 10s.; CCLXXIX., £2 10s. The winner of the second prize in the same competition has forwarded us £2, which we have given to CCLXI.

A LITTLE SWEEPSTAKE WINDFALL.

With reference to the sum of £5 5s. 3d., which has been allocated to the JOHN BULL "Human Document" Fund, the amount of the prize drawn by a Smallman and Terry St. Leger Sweep ticket standing in the name of the Chief Constable of Peterborough, and which that official disclaimed, we have had the pleasure in apportioning the amount as follows:—CCXXIV., £3; and CCLXI., £2 5s. 3d.

We have received from F. D., 2s. 6d.; "One Who's Been through the Hoops," 1s.; L. B., 1s., S. F. F., £1, for the poor old man referred to in our issue of December 20th, under the heading of "A Dastard Blow."

Mrs. J. A. F. S. (South Kensington) has kindly sent a box of men's clothing, which we have bestowed upon a poor man at present in hospital awaiting suitable garments in order to make a fresh start in the New Year.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

[Every Christmas, with the help of our readers, we distribute food and clothing amongst the London poor—defraying the whole expenses of every kind.]

We return our hearty thanks to those readers who so generously helped to make lighter at Christmas time the lot of those less fortunate than themselves. Below we give a further list of subscriptions, which are, of course, in addition to the sums already acknowledged, amounting to £639 19s. 6d., of which the JOHN BULL Football Sweepstake Charity Fund provided £500, Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, £50, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, £25, and the Proprietors and Editor of this journal £35. The further subscriptions are as follows:—

Per Mr. Loo Levy:—Loo Levy, £3; Douglas Stuart, £2; Luigi, £1; H. Heathorn, £1; A. Spalding, £1; Sir John Miller, £1; Melville Ward, £1; Ralph Lyon, £1; Capt. Taylor, £1; Ryan, £1; Master Patrick Wadham, £1; Rhea Barnes, £1; Arthur Lowther, £1; A. A. Carter, £1; Miss Longfellow, 10s.; C. Jones, £1 1s.; J. Hare, £1 1s.—Total, £19 12s. "Chauffeur," L. B., 5s.; E. M. H., 2s. 6d.; "Almond," 3s.; H. T., 5s.; B. W. R., 1s.; A. H. P. H., 10s. 6d.; "Chapter," 6d.; F. W. P., 2s. 6d.; "Just a Mite," 1s.; "Robinson Crusoe," 1s. 3d.; "A Book Winner," 2s. 6d.; "A Wellwisher," 1s.; A. W. M., 2s. 6d.; "A Little Tot," 1s.; A. M. C., 5s.; "Bullets 62," 2s. 6d.; "Loughton," £2 2s.; J. W. H., 2s.; H. J., 2s. 6d.; D. R., 10s.; "Fred and Ethel," 1s. 6d.; E. B., 2s. 6d.; L. E. D., 2s. 6d.; E. C., 10s.; W. F., 5s.; "Self and Wife," £1; J. and E. K. (Rickmansworth), 2s. 6d.; G. A. W. (Woodside Park), 5s.; "Ivy and Harry," 2s.; "Unity School," 1s.; H. J., 1s.; "Tunstall," 5s.; F. H., 2s. 6d.; M. A., 2s. 6d.; L. W. A., 5s.; G. S. R., 2s. 6d.; "West Ealing," 7s. 6d.; W. M., 5s.; M. O. T., 5s.; "Margaret," 5s.; G. W., 1s.; "A Little Help," 1s.; A. S., 1s.; J. E. G., 2s. 6d.; "Mell," 2s. 6d.; H. G. T., 5s.; "Rene," 1s.; C. R., 1s. 6d.; "Tiny," 1s.; R. R., 1s.; "Daddy, Mummy, Kathy, Peggy, and Eric," 1s.; "A Soldier," 2s.; "Bob," 5s.; C. B. (Abbey Road), 5s; M., 6d.; J. W. A., 5s.; S. A. W., 2s. 6d.; F. M. W., 7s. 6d.; J. E. C., 1s.; "Trumpeter," 1s.; W. S. P., 1s.; J. R. B., 2s.; H. J. T., 6d.; L. G., 2s.; A. W., 5s.; J. P., 1s.; "Royal London Agent," 1s.; F. A. T., 5s.; C. W., 10s.; "Gravesend Pilot," 10s. A. B., 5s.; "Silentia," 5s.; "Churchman," 2s. 6d.; E. G. B. 1s.; R. L., 10s. 6d.; W. K., 2s. 6d.; H. B., 2s.; J. A. S., 1s. E. G., 2s.; F. F., 2s.; "Four Years' Reader," 1s.; W. W. C. 2s. 6d.; "Nemo," 4s. 4d.; Mrs. S. N. C., Son and Daughter, 30s.; B. W. (Bristol), 2s. 6d.; J. E. S., 2s. 6d.; E. C. D., 2s. 6d.; J. P., 5s.; A. S., 1s.; E. W. (Gateshead), 1s.; "A Friend of the Poor," £1; K. and A., 2s. 6d.; "Cantab," 5s.; "Smudge," 1s.; G. C., 5s.; J. W., 1s.; "Nitram," 2s.; "Do Unto Others," 5s.; W. R. S., 2s. 6d.; "Carlitos," 10s.; A. M., 5s. "Jean," 1s.; W. R., 1s.; C. H. S., 2s. 6d.; "Penitent One," 5s.; R. A. O. B., 2s. 6d.; T. and R., 6s. 6d.; "Duty," 2s.; J. C. (Dalmeny), 5s.; J. C. B. (collected from members of the "Perseverance Thrift and Loan Club)," 4s. 6d.; L. J. W., £1; J. B., 9d.; "Little Kingsley," 5s.; H. W. K., 2s. 6d.; F. W. W., 1s.; H. A. R., 1s.; T. R. S., 1s.; M. G. W., 2s. 6d.; G. W. R., 5s.; H. J. T., 1s.; V. W. K., 2s. 6d.; "In His Name," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. N. d'A., 1s. 6d.; R. E. P., 1s.; Mr. H. Cullerne-Bown (of "The Totalisator," Lucerne), £6; "Fredeswifeny," 1s.; "P. C. 170," 2s. 6d.; "Every Little Helps," 6d.; C. D., 1s

Parcels of clothing, toys, dolls, sweets, etc., from "Doobawah," Mrs. J., "Brixham," Mrs. M. S. G., F. R., C. A. D. A. K. J. L., Mrs. J. W. H., G. S. M., Mr. F. M. W., J. W., Mrs. M., "Freda," M. L., C. J. P., "A Little Friend of 3 Years," "Card," "Banner," R. E., R. A. S., K. H., "A Lover of Children," Miss W. R. H., "Unity School," G. A. W., A. F., Mr. H., T. M. P., "Anonymous," A. P., Mrs. G. E. K. A., T. C. D., "Every Little Helps," "Three at Shoreham," Mr. S. C. T., "Made by Little Hands," "Made by Little Boys," "Eve and Nellie," "Georgie," "Mabel," "Walter," "Preb," H. P., "Antipas," "An Old Admirer," A. J., M. C., J. C., F. T., M. C. (Reigate), Mrs. J. C., "Paignton," C. W. E., "Old Reader," Mrs. T., Mr. and Mrs. H., Mr. N., "Shamrock," Mrs. F. J. H.; "Just a Little to Help," D. W., "A Widow," "Resolven," "A Lonely Woman," Mr. and Mrs. C. F. T., "Two Friends at Swindon," Mr. F. and Sister and Mrs. S., Miss N. S.; Sir Thomas J. Lipton, 1,000 meat pies; R. L. (Stoke-on-Trent), three dolls.

Next week we shall announce the various further grants to charities, completing the distribution of the £1,500 placed in our hands for the purpose by the JOHN BULL Football Cup Charity Fund.

£500 awarded every week for a "Bullet." Over 5,000 other prizes value over £2,000 weekly.

A TON OF COAL FOR 2/6.

Scientist's Wonderful Discovery which enables Everyone to save Large Sums in Weekly Housekeeping.

Remarkable Offer to enable every Household to test the Splendid Economic Advantages of "Seldonite," which halves the Season's Coal Bill.

The introduction of the wonderful chemical substance "Seldonite" (the discovery of Professor Seldon), which doubles the "life" of coal, or, in other words, cuts in half the coal bill, is resulting in something like a sensation.

Ladies are now finding that they are able to have in kitchen or drawing-room the brightest, cosiest, or hottest fires they wish, and yet make one scuttleful of coal treated with "Seldonite" go as far as two ordinary ones.

A saving such as this is, of course, greatly appreciated, all the more so because servants are pleased when "Seldonite" is used, for fires burn clearer, need less attention, and there is practically no waste, dust, or soot.

No matter how small or how large your coal bill, you can effect a wonderful saving by using "Seldonite," and if you use, say, one ton of coals a month you can save at least £5 during the coal fire season.

In order to give the public a most advantageous opportunity of testing "Seldonite" in their own homes, the proprietors have decided for a short while to send post free a full size 4s. box (sufficient to treat one ton of coal, slack, or coke), with full directions, to all readers for only 2s. 6d. Orders and remittances, however, must be sent within the next few days. Five boxes will be forwarded (whilst this offer lasts) for only 10s.

A MOST REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

Already "Seldonite" has found thousands of users who appreciate its cleanly and splendidly economical advantages, and testify to their appreciation by constant repeat orders. A few of the many distinguished users of "Seldonite" are:—

Viscount Combermere.	Lt.-Col. J. R. Garrett.
Lady Angier.	Lt.-Col. Morcton, Bembridge
Lady L. Wemyss.	Major Sharp, Southampton.
Lady Brownlow Cecil.	Major Sandys, Bulford.
Sir S. Ponsonby.	Major A. Richards, Camberley.
Hon. Mrs. Sidney Ponsonby.	Captain W. E. Beak, Abingdon.
Hon. R. Henley Eden.	Captain Kirk, Belfast.
Colonel Leir.	Rev. Mother Superior, Convent, Taunton.
Colonel Butlin.	Lady Ward, Bridlington.
Captain Richmond.	The Rt. Rev. Bishop H. M. M. Edwards.
Captain Webbe.	
Lt.-Col. Warner, Farnboro'.	

"Seldonite" is easily used, and is alike suitable for factory, kitchen, drawing-room or dainty flat. It does not smell; there are no fumes; it is perfectly healthy. Indeed, no one knows that it is in use except that the fire burns consistently, warmly, cosily and brightly without any attention.

Owing to the enormous number of orders received since the first introduction of "Seldonite" the proprietors ask for four or five days' indulgence in dispatch. To obtain your supply with the least possible delay please order at once.

To take advantage of the special offer made above readers should send remittances of 2s. 6d. for the full 4s. box (sufficient for one ton of coal), or 10s. for five boxes, addressing their letters to:—

THE SELDONITE LABORATORIES (Dept. 192), Holborn Hall, London, W.C.

GREY HAIR.

Restored to its natural original colour by using

CARENZA (Regd).

Colourless, Odourless, Stainless.

CARENZA, a liquid as clear and as pure as Crystal, has recently been subjected to severe tests, and has succeeded in every case in restoring grey and faded hair to its original natural colour in a few applications.

All those who are grey-haired are invited to test this wonderful preparation by writing for a large sample bottle of this latest production of modern science. Sufficient will be sent to enable each user to prove that CARENZA (Regd. is a genuine grey hair restorer, and that it can be used with perfect safety, without staining hair, scalp or fingers. It is NOT a DYE.

A postal order for 6d. to cover cost of packing, postage, etc., should be enclosed with application.

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(Chief Chemist), **CARENZA LABORATORIES, LTD.,**

73a, Albion House, New Oxford Street, London, W.

RING up your tobacconist for a tin of this delightful new blend. It is made by a firm who have been blending choice tobacco since the reign of George II.

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LONDON MIXTURE

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Always smoke Taddy's Tobacco —the finest tobacco in the best blend.

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If so, we advise you to apply AT ONCE to the British Motor Industry's training centre. POPULAR COURSE of unlimited practical instruction in Motor Car Driving, Mechanism and running repairs on the road until you state in writing that you are satisfied and proficient. Lowest inclusive Fee. Highest Standard training. This Course entitles you to the certificate and free introduction to positions through the R.S.M. LICENCED CHAUFFEURS' EMPLOYMENT AGENCY. No extra Charges. Call or send a post-card for free prospectus (J).

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We have always a large number of High-Grade Positions open in Clerical, Technical, Organising and Travelling capacities—positions carrying salaries of from £150-£1,000—and we want to hear from really High-Grade Men who are capable of filling them. If you are a man possessed of Special Ability, write us to-day—or call.

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As the BLADE So the SHAVE

The 'STAR BLADE' is the result of 30 years' experience and research. The life of a safety razor blade is a point to be considered.

The majority need replacing after a few shaves—Expensive! The First Cost is the last with the 'STAR' BLADE and it will shave you in Luxurious Comfort for MANY YEARS.

Set as illustrated, with silver plated frame and knurled handle in velvet lined case. Of all Cutlers, or from

7/6 MARKET & Co. (Lon.) POST Ltd. (Dept. J.B.), 26/28, PAID. Charterhouse Bldgs., London, E.C.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To His Imperial Highness the German Crown Prince.

DEAR YOUR HIGHNESS,—I observe that, in honour of the festal season, you are to be relieved of your command of the First Bodyguard Hussars at Danzig, and I gather that you will shortly resume high military office at Berlin. In short, your period of "exile" is at an end, and in the august judgment of your Imperial sire your manifold naughtinesses have been sufficiently expiated. Your enforced retirement from the capital has doubtless been a weariness of the flesh, but I trust it may have enabled you to acquire a nicer sense of princely decorum than you have hitherto displayed. I beg you to rush home and kiss your majestic dad on both cheeks, after which you should shake hands nicely with the Imperial Chancellor.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P., President of the "Board" of Trade.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,—Disquieting reports reach me upon a matter which should be your intimate concern. The *renaissance* of China has opened up vast possibilities of trade. The progress of civilisation within the Mongol Empire has created a myriad novel needs which the skill and enterprise of modern manufacture can alone supply. Yet I am advised that there has so far been but a scant demand for the products of Britain, while America, Germany, and, notably, Japan, are greedily dividing the spoils of commerce. It is not that the prestige of British industry has diminished, or that our craftsmen have lost their whilom skill. The cause of our shortcoming is more readily remediable. It is, I am convinced, that in the matter of commercial organisation—so vital to successful foreign trade—your Department has failed to rise to its responsibility. It is needless to labour the point—the hint should suffice. Intelligence and enterprise are the prime conditions of commercial supremacy.

JOHN BULL.

To Lord Willoughby de Broke.

DEAR WAR LORD,—I observe that you are once more upon the rampage. Fired by a consuming zeal for civil liberty and true religion, your words are indeed as a two-edged sword. Dread of civil strife is, you declare, "cowardly and un-English," whilst as for your noble self, you will fight, aye, with sword, rifle, and bayonet, in the last ditch, or, at least, in the last but one! Nor is this the first time that you have gone forth like a devouring blast, breathing blood and slaughter. The passing of the Parliament Act was, if I mistake not, to witness the discoloration of the Thames with blood of your shedding. Yet that measure is now law, and, I am assured, no single scar disfigures your lordship's graceful person. Proclaiming yourself a "Die-hard," you died not at all. I beg you cease your mock heroics and give ear to the still small voice of reason, lest in the irony of destiny your frenzied words recoil upon your noble head.

JOHN BULL.

To Captain W. T. Down, J.P., Chairman of Magistrates, Ashford, Kent.

GALLANT CAPTAIN,—I have been much interested in certain applications to you and your colleagues for what I may term seasonable licences. On December 2nd, for instance, you refused a number of publicans extensions for an hour in respect of dinners and "share-outs"; on December 9th you refused another hour's extension for a slate-club supper, intimating that "the Bench had decided not to grant any more extensions"; and yet on December 16th, when another applied for extension "for a Conservative smoking concert," you granted it without demur.

Is it decent, do you think—is it playing the game—for a bench of Tory magistrates to allow themselves to be prejudiced and influenced in this way by their Party views? Can you wonder that people are getting tired of the likes of you? It is time you were scrapped.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Mark Sykes, M.P. for Central Hull, York.

MY DEAR SIR MARK,—I am delighted to note that, having spent much of the Parliamentary recess in distant solitudes, you have given yourself furiously to think on the question I am so constantly hammering at, and that you are beginning to get sick of the political Party system. This is a healthy state of mind, my friend, for when a Party politician of your type—I mean a man of able and earnest individuality—lets his mental apparatus have a free run awhile, the product of its activities is likely to be a ferment of a very useful kind. In telling your constituents what you have been thinking you naturally stimulate them to thoughts akin. There is one little difference I have with you on the matter, however. Though you agree that the people of this country are getting sick of Party, you say it is "necessary." Why? Do please enlighten me.

JOHN BULL.

To Colonel Warde, M.P., Medway Division, Kent.

GALLANT COLONEL,—Haven't you rather given the game away in your recent letter to the Farmers' Tariff Union? You have long been known as a Tariff Reformer of the strictest type; a "whole-hogger." But you have now made the discovery that "without the votes of the masses" your Party can never get into power again, and so you have agreed to shunt "food taxes" for the time being, although you believe the dear food cry to be a "bogey"—but you are willing to truckle to the bogey if thereby you and your friends may regain power. Indeed, you frankly describe your action as a "compromise o' the position," and declare that it has involved the "biggest sacri ce you have ever made." Just so, my dear Colonel; it is the price which Party ever demands. Why not chuck it?

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Stonehouse District Council, near Plymouth.

DEAR SIR,—What is doing about that rate collectorship your way? Is it true that, contrary to the advertisements your Clerk issued in respect of the appointment, one of the candidates is under age—a youth of 19, in fact—that he is the son of a councillor, that he has been recommended for "consideration," among others, but that the intention is to appoint him and hold over the post until his return from Canada? If such be the case, I beg to say that such a proceeding is against the public interest, it is a betrayal of trust on the part of the public representatives who associate themselves with it, and it is flagrantly unfair to other candidates of probably greater experience and superior qualifications who are within the conditions stipulated by the Council. Let me have an early word in reply.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. William Belt, Hunmanby, Yorks.

DEAR SPORTSMAN,—I note that you commenced the celebration of the season of peace on earth in a highly satisfactory fashion. A few days before Christmas you were strolling, or weeding, or something, in your garden when, lo, you beheld a strange bird perched therein. The fact that it was an unusual visitant, and adorned with rare plumage, naturally excited your slaughterous instinct. Consequently, you seized your gun and shot the stranger dead. You may not have known that it was a specimen of the rare Bohemian waxwing, unseen in this country for 23 years. It was sufficient for you that it was strange and beautiful—attributes in birds which apparently justify their death at your hands. Doubtless you are proud of your doughtydeed; but, for my part, the news of it did not enhance the enjoyment of my Christmas dinner one whit. Will they still trust you with a gun?

JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham, Hall Barn, Beaconsfield.

DEAR LORD BURNHAM,—On behalf of the modern and up-to-date weekly Press, I desire to add my congratulations on the attainment of your eightieth birthday, and to express the hope that you may live to see as great a reformation in the character of weekly journalism as my old pupil, Lord Northcliffe, has effected in the daily Press.

JOHN BULL.

Come, let us "Bullet" together in 1914—start this week. See page 30.

TIME'S NEW REVUE.

"In this Revue, 'Nineteen—Fourteen,'
All History again is seen
The Love and Laughter, Hate and Tears,
The Follies of a thousand years.

"A hundred Kings are in the cast,
With millions of poor sufferers massed;
And Fate has fashioned every scene
In this Revue, 'Nineteen—Fourteen.'"

CURTAIN RAISERS.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

SCENE: *Headquarters of the Orange Army outside Belfast.* SIR EDWARD CARSON *and* GENERAL RICHARDSON *seated at a table covered with maps and documents.*

SIR EDWARD CARSON (*pushing back his chair*): Well, Gineral, our preparations arre now complate, Oi take ut. Wid twinty-thousand min undher arrms, all burrnin' tu show their loyalty tu the King be shootin' down the throops thot arre bein' sint aganst us in his neem, God bless 'um! we ought tu be able tu put up a good foight.

GENERAL RICHARDSON: Certainly, Sir Edward. I see no reason to doubt the issue. I have made the best disposition of our forces that my knowledge and experience can suggest. I have placed the Catholic Unionists in the centre of the line, so that——

SIR EDWARD: So thot they can't run away in case their religion shud prove sthronger thin their pathriotism whin ut comes tu the pint. Thrue for yez, Gineral. Ut's admoire yer strathegy Oi du.

GENERAL RICHARDSON: I have also formed the Anglican volunteers into a small company by themselves, and placed them at the extreme end of the left wing so as to keep them at a safe distance from the Presbyterians, who form the right wing and the best part of the centre.

SIR EDWARD: Gineral, ut's a genius you arre, an' thot's the truth. Ye'rre not only a soldier, but ye undherstand the wakness av humanity where religion is concarned.

[*Enter* SENTRY. *Salutes and stands at attention.*]

SIR EDWARD: Phwat is ut? Spake, ye spalpane!

SENTRY: Deputation av Ulster Cartholic Volunteers kickin' up a hullabaloo outsoide, sorr.

SIR EDWARD: Admit 'um.'

[*Enter Deputation.* LEADER *advances and salutes*]

LEADER OF DEPUTATION: If you plaze, yer hanner, the game's gone farr enough, we're thinkun'. We belave in the Union, but we're Cartholics befure we're Unionists. We only jined the Ulster arrmy becas we thought ut moight scare the Governmint intu throwin' over Home Rule, but now ut's come tu a foight ut's rather retoire we would.

SIR EDWARD (*starting to his feet*): Retoire, is ut? May the saints in Hivin look soidways on yez fure a set av cowardly hounds! Get out av ut befure Oi du yez mischief! We want no thraitors in this camp. Sintry, have 'um dhriven from the loines at the pint av the bay'nit! Arrah! [*Exit* DEPUTATION *hastily.*]

[*Re-enter* SENTRY. *Salutes and stands at attention.*]

SIR EDWARD: Phwat is ut this toime?

SENTRY: Another deputation wants yer hanner.

SIR EDWARD: Admit 'um.

[*Enter* DEPUTATION OF NONCONFORMIST HOME RULERS.]

SIR EDWARD: Phwat is ut? Can't yez see Oi'm busy?

LEADER OF DEPUTATION: Sorry to interrupt you, Sir Edward, but we thought we had better come and tell you we can't fight to-morrow. We only signed the Covenant and joined your army for business reasons—that is to say, to avoid being boycotted. But now it looks like being a fight we can't see our way to shed blood in a cause we do not in our hearts support.

SIR EDWARD (*burying his face in his hands*): Iverybody's doin' ut, ut seems. So ye're Home Rulers, arre yez? An' how many du yez riprisint?

LEADER OF DEPUTATION: Two thousand.

SIR EDWARD: Thin clear out, an' be damned tu yez!

[*Exit* DEPUTATION. *Re-enter* SENTRY.]

SIR EDWARD: Another deputation?

SENTRY: Yes, sorr. Presbyterians, yer hanner. Riprisintin' the main body av the arrmy. They say thot in consequence av the desartions the odds aree tu great, an' ask permission tu retoire.

SIR EDWARD (*savagely*): Tell 'um tu go tu Hell. Where's Galloper Smith?

SENTRY: Gallopin', sorr.

GENERAL RICHARDSON (*reaching for his military cloak*): We'd better be galloping, too. [CURTAIN.]

TO SCOTTISH READERS.

Owing to the New Year holidays, this issue is on sale throughout Scotland on Wednesday, December 31st. On subsequent weeks the day of sale will, however, be Thursday, as usual.

If Rheumatism racks your bones Get a box of "Sanadones."

Mrs. S. Smith, 107, Harwood Road, Fulham, writes:—

"I have derived very great benefit from your wonderful remedy 'Sanadones.' Before taking them I had suffered for no less than three years from Rheumatism in the feet, shoulders and hands. The pains were severe and stabbing, and although I tried so-called remedies too numerous to mention, it was not until I sent for 'Sanadones' that I derived any benefit at all. Wishing you all success."

"Sanadones" are sold by Boots' Cash Chemists, Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Timothy White, Lewis & Burrows', Hodder, Cockburn, and Spire, at 2s. 9d. per box. All other high-class Chemists stock "Sanadones" or will gladly get them.

SEND nine penny stamps to Newball & Mason, Nottingham, and they will send you a bottle of

Mason's Ginger Wine Essence

which makes

One Gallon Ginger Wine

with the addition of lump sugar.

All who apply before January 15th will receive a Neat Money Box, which makes a Useful Gift for the Children.

WHAT TO DO FOR SORE THROAT.

SOME GOOD ADVICE BY A SPECIALIST.

As there seems to be a regular epidemic of Sore Throats this winter, the following valuable recipe will be welcomed by many. A sore throat is a dangerous complaint to trifle with as the bronchial tubes lead directly to the lungs and the disease often travels along these tubes into the lungs and there sets up an inflammation that invariably results in a serious lung trouble.

At the first sign of soreness in the throat or around the tonsils you should secure from your chemist 1 oz. of Parmint (Double Strength) and take this home and add to it ½-pint of hot water and 4 ozs. of moist sugar. Stir until dissolved. Take one tablespoonful four times a day. This will give instant relief and will usually cure the worst throat within 48 hours. The healing and soothing qualities of this formula are unequalled, and every person suffering with a bad throat should give this prescription a trial. There is nothing better.

THE COMPETITOR'S DICTIONARY OF KINDRED WORDS.

Compiled and alphabetically arranged by W. H. STAGPOOLE, B.A., LL.D.

Will enable you to find at once all the words that bear about a given meaning and suggest Ideas for Solutions.

To show range of book, take for instance the word UNION. While there are scarcely a dozen words synonymous with it, one hundred and thir y-four words are given which are so closely allied to it in meaning as to form possible substitutes in a solution.

172 pages, 5 x 8in. Post free for One Shilling and Sixpence.

"A useful book."—*John Bull.*

Paul Haumann, 67 71, Pentonville Road London, N.

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A Simple Harmless Method which causes Grey Hair to vanish like magic. No "staining" the hair by dye concoctions, but the pigmentary cells become revitalised, and produce fresh colour the same shade as in earlier years. This is the one Genuine Prescription that restores the colour by a natural process. The remedy is harmless, and will help develop a strong and beautiful growth of hair. A special

TRIAL BOTTLE FREE

of charge can be had at the address below, or the same will be sent in a plain sealed package on receipt of two penny stamps for postage, etc. Address—Mrs. Mary K. Chapman, Suite 271, 8 Mortimer St., Regent St., London.

CAN YOU DRIVE A MOTOR CAR?

An Indispensable Work for Every Owner, Driver, or Chauffeur.

FIRST PAYMENT 1/6 ONLY.

The time is past when it required an expert engineer to drive a car, but a working knowledge of the various parts of a car and their functions is still essential to really successful driving, and the importance of this work to every owner and driver of a motor-car, cycle, or cycle-car can hardly be over-estimated.

The Book of the Motor-Car is the first really comprehensive work on motor-cars, motor-cycles, and cycle-cars ever published. By the careful study of its chapters the rawest amateur can learn the principles upon which his car works, but at the same time it is so comprehensive and so striking in its detail that even the skilled expert will find it a book of enthralling interest and extreme utility, while the practical motorist will find it quite indispensable. It should be as much a part of the equipment of a garage as an oil-can or a lifting-jack.

Driving and Repairs.

The Book is full of invaluable information on all problems of driving and repairing a car, instructions being given for all possible difficulties in language that can be understood by the most unmechanical mind. The following are a few of the subjects dealt with:—

Cylinders, valves of all kinds, different types of engines, carburetters, ignition, silencers, gears and clutches, radiators, cooling systems, brakes, lubricators, lighting systems, artillery and wire wheels, tyres, fuels and how to use them (including all the new petrol substitutes), tools and repair appliances, etc., etc.

Cycle-Cars and Motor-Cycles.

The work pays full attention to motor-cycles and cycle-cars, full details and instruction being given for all those points wherein they must be treated differently from the more powerful motor-car.

It is profusely illustrated with full-page plates, drawings in plan, section and elevation, diagrams and photographs, as well as a series of sectional movable models in colour showing in detail the actual working parts of a car.

Mr. CHARLES JARROTT writes:—

"I think 'The Book of the Motor Car' invaluable. As a book of reference it will be of great value to me, and everyone who is keenly interested in their car should have a copy."

FREE BOOKLET

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated booklet giving full particulars of "The Book of the Motor-Car" and your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard)

Address .....

....

My maiden Speech and How I Made It.

By JOHN HERRICK.

I may explain to start with that I am an ordinary business man—not a politician nor a professional stump orator. But in my business at any rate we are always holding meetings and dinners to discuss business subjects of various sorts. Till recently when I have attended such meetings I have gone as a spectator and never dared to get upon my legs and make a speech. This was not through lack of a desire to do so, for I noticed long ago that the men who spoke oftenest and best were the men who got on best in their business—and like most other men I want to get on in business too.

THE TERRORS OF "NERVES."

It was simply lack of ability. I had never made a speech and was too nervous to try. But that is all altered now. I made my maiden speech two months ago and since then I have made three more. My first was rather halting, though I did not disgrace myself, but my fourth, only last Friday, was a real success. I had lost my nervousness; I made my points and I carried the meeting with me till I sat down amid *real* applause.

And the pleasure that applause gave me! It was like the old days when one won a prize at school and one felt that the world was a good world after all.

Moreover, it is not only a great pleasure to be able to make a good speech; it is nowadays really a business necessity.

To one man the chance of making a speech affords the opportunity for an enhanced reputation; to another it is nothing but a danger. For the man who stutters and stammers, and finally sits down after a speech principally consisting of "ums" and "ers," scarcely enhances his reputation as a keen-witted member of the community or as a man whose intelligence and resource can be depended upon in a business crisis.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

And because of that I am going to make a confession. I owe every bit of that success to—what do you think?—a book, a book which first of all put me in the right way to thinking out a speech, which then provided me an amusing story with which to start and which finally gave me many valuable hints on the actual making of the speech. You may think this a lot for a book to do. So it is, but this book does it all.

HOW TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC.

And the name of this book is "the Book of Public Speaking." It is the only work of its kind ever published in this country, and it is a book that ought to be in the hands of every ambitious man and every man whatever his position in life who is liable to be called upon to make a speech in public. It is written by men who are famous for the brilliance of their own speeches and their articles cover every phase of the subject from the choice of a topic and the selection of material to the art of gesture and the silencing of interruptors. For instance there are:—

Right Hon. T. J. Macnamara, M.P., on "How to Make an Effective Speech"; Sir W. Robertson Nicoll (Editor of the *British Weekly*), on "The Art of Oratory"; Arthur Bourchier (the well-known actor), on "How to Prepare and Deliver a Speech"; J. L. Griffiths (U.S.A. Consul-General, London), on "After-dinner Speaking"; A. C. Benson, M.A., on "The Art of Lecturing."

Who could be better qualified than these men to teach one how to speak? And in case one has an opportunity to be chairman or steward at a public meeting there is also a valuable series of articles by Albert Crew, Barrister-at-Law, explaining every point of the legal aspect of Public Speaking, and dealing with the whole subject of the conduct of and procedure at meetings.

But the Book of Public Speaking is of the greatest interest even for the man who never has to speak in public, because it presents for the first time an entirely new form of literature of enthralling interest. Its handsome covers contain the cream of the greatest speeches of modern times.

There is hardly an orator of note of recent years who is not represented in the work; there is scarcely a subject of importance or of interest that is not dealt with in one or more of the speeches. Political Orations, Religious Addresses, After Dinner Speeches, Scientific and Literary Lectures, all have been brought together to form a work of enthralling interest to all intelligent people. Among the great speakers whose speeches are included in the work are:—

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ORATORS.

Lord Rosebery.	—Sir A. Conan Doyle.
Lord Beaconsfield.	—Sir Edward Grey, K.G.
H. H. Asquith.	—Earl Halsbury.
A. J. Balfour.	—Sir Henry Irving.
Sir Edward Clarke, K.C.	—Lord Fisher
Andrew Lang.	—Abraham Lincoln.
D. Lloyd George.	—Justin McCarthy.
Mark Twain.	—Viscount Milner.
Spencer Leigh Hughes.	—M. Poincare.
Joseph Chamberlain.	—Whitelaw Reid.
Max O'Rell.	—Theodore Roosevelt.
R. Waldo Emerson.	—Philip Snowden.
Harold Cox.	—Ian Maclaren.
Woodrow Wilson.	—Emile Zola.
G. Bernard Shaw.	—Augustine Birrell.
Charles Dickens.	—Sir A. W. Pinero.
Chauncey Depew.	—John Bright.
W. E. Gladstone.	—Winston Churchill.

TWO OPINIONS.

PHILIP SNOWDEN, Esq., M.P., writes:—

"The selection of speeches seems to me to be admirable. The introduction and the articles on 'The Art of Public Speaking' are full of very excellent advice."

SIR W. BULL, M.P., writes:—

"What a godsend 'The Book of Public Speaking' will be to a busy man who is called upon at short notice to make 200 speeches a year on all sorts of subjects. It will be useful to young men who are really in earnest in wanting to speak well—whilst no public man's library should be without it."

A FREE BOOK.

The publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated book—which they will send free—describing the work and their offer to deliver the complete work as published for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey St., London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge and without any obligation on my part, full particulars of "The Book of Public Speaking."

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

'ARRY: "Look, Bill—Victory!"
BILL: "Lor' lumme, I'd like to see the bloke wot lorst!"

PRINTER'S PIE.

THE WORK OF THE "DEVIL."

"Against Millwall, Gravesend gave a splendid exhibition, and they ended up a fast and interesting game by WINNING by the SURPRISING MARGIN of 1—1."—*The Kent Messenger.*

"In order to relieve the pressure of business on MAHOGANY, customers are requested to shop early this week."—Mr. Claude Hannah, 6, George Street, Paisley (advertising in the *Paisley Daily Express*).

"It is stated that the Railway Administration is studying a scheme of a new express between Cairo and Alexandria, which will do the journey in a non-stop run of two hours and fifteen minutes at the rate of NINETY MINUTES AN HOUR."—*The Egyptian Gazette.*

"'Looping the Loop'—LYING Feats by M. Chanteloup and Mr. Hamel."—*Birmingham Daily Mail* heading.

"On a dull December morning, ALLARDYCE, CLAYTON AND DAWES were seated in the private room of the firm. But there was ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE ROOM, and he was a good-looking, well-groomed young man."—*Lloyd's Weekly News.*

"Wedding groups carefully EXECUTED."—The Rusholme Electric Studio, Great Western Street, Rusholme.

"Mr. Crout's flock of SHEEP are well known, and are being disposed of by the owner only for the purpose of converting them into OSTRICHES."—Mr. S. Shandel, Auctioneer, Excelsior (advertising in *The Friend*, Bloemfontein).

"There was one reason why the election at WICK was of some interest, and that was because of its GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO ULSTER."—Mr. Charles Hobhouse, M.P. (according to the *Scotsman* report of his recent speech at East Bristol).

"Our prices are LOWER than LONDON'S LOWEST."—The Stores, 809-875, Fulham Road, S.W. (advertising in *The Wandsworth News Letter*).

"Bottles not charged for WHEN DELIVERED (UNLESS BROKEN)."—Mr. T. Turner, "Welby Arms," Walton Road, Green Street, Upton Park.

"Those who have fuchsias grown from summer cuttings should remember that they must be kept under the same conditions as geranium cuttings—with the MINIMUM of root moisture. Old plants may be kept RATHER DRIER."—*Daily Mail.*

"FRIDAY, 15th May, 1914—WHITSUNDAY."—Messrs. William Collins, Sons and Co.'s "School-teacher's Diary."

"I came to after some time, for the sun was beating down upon me UNMERCILESSLY."—*Wide World Magazine.*

"If this Guinness is required for IMMEDIATE use it should be placed in a warm position for 48 HOURS."—Messrs. GUINNESS AND CO.

"We REGRET to acknowledge receipt of several calendars from Mr. Archd. Whyte, grocer and provision merchant, 55, High Street. The calendars are neat and chaste in design and are well worthy of a place in any household."—*Clydebank and Renfrew Press.*

"Shoeing Smith wanted, also able to GO IN THE TIRE if required."—Mr. E. Burrows, Legh Street, Warrington (advertising in the *Evening Yorkshire Post*).

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

Why is "Bullets" so popular? Because it is the l udged word competition—with most prizes.

Country Post Orders receive the prompt attention of a special manager.

"Meet me in the Tea Room at the 'Midland,'

"And we'll choose the furniture together. At the 'Midland' Furniture Salons we shall have the choice of over £100,000 worth of beautifully made furniture—rooms upon rooms of it, in endless variety, from great massive carved chests and sideboards down to the daintiest of occasional tables. And I know from experience that

Money buys more at the "Midland"

Their vast business and the middlemen's profits they save by being actual manufacturers enable the "Midland" to give the best value consistent with that high quality on which their reputation, as London's Leading Furnishers, has been based since the reign of George IV. They ask no deposit, no interest, and no extra charge whatever is made. And, should the purchaser die, **the furniture becomes the absolute property of the wife**—without any further payment. All furniture purchased on their Ideal Terms is **insured against fire.**

New Tea-room, Smoking Lounge and Writing Room now open for the convenience of our Customers. **Free.**

If you are unable to call during ordinary business hours, kindly make an appointment for any time suited to yourself. We will retain a qualified salesman to attend to your wishes.

Customers' Fares Paid *to Town on all orders of £20 and over.*

Country orders packed and delivered free.

Write for the "Midland" Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive guide to furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in the "Midland" Furniture Salons. It will be sent free on receipt of a postcard with your address. Write for it to-day.

Well-made Bedroom Suite in oak, handsomely designed. A typical example of "Midland" value. With 2 rush-seated Chairs. **£6 6s. 0d.**

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

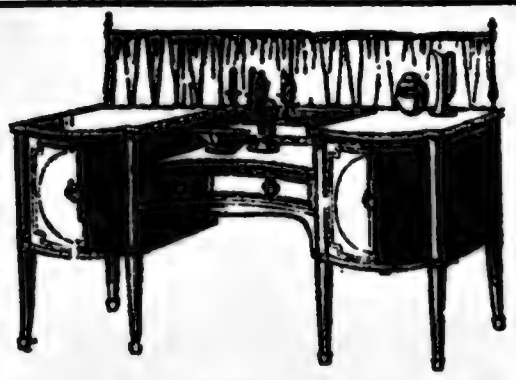
Contractors to H. M. Crown Agents for the Colonies.

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station. 1 minute from British Museum Tube Station. Hours—9 till 8. Saturdays—9 till ..

Governing Director—**George Michael** (who has been connected with the business for 49 years).

A luxurious upholstered wing-chair, covered with art tapestry. **£1 8s. 6d.**



A Sheraton Style Sideboard in mahogany inlaid with satinwood. Fitted with antique brass rail and silk curtain. **£14 14s. 0d.**

Ideal Term

Town or Country.

Worth.	Per Mth.	Worth.	Per Mth.
£10	£0 6 0	£50	£1 8 0
£20	0 11 0	£100	2 5 0
£40	0 17 0	£200	4 10 0
£80	1 5 0		

Larger amounts pro rata.

10% Additional Discount for Cash.

POLITICAL PATTER.

MRS. PANKHURST.

(*Sings*) Chase me, Charlie! Chase me, Charlie!
Yip—i—addy—i—ay!
I only grin when they run me in,—
I'm out the following day!
In quod I neither bite nor sup,
But when I'm loose I make it up!
So, Chase me, Charlie! Chase me, Charlie!
Yip—i—addy—i—ay!!

Well, doesn t somebody want to chase me? If anybody does, remember I start scratch. Yes, I'm a fair old nailer, I am. (*Trombone.*) You needn't be rude. Perhaps I'm *not* so young as I was, but there are not many women run after by the men as much as *I* am, so *there*. You would be surprised if I told you how many men have taken me in their arms—and in public, too. Talk about pressing attentions! Why, I've had as many as half-a-dozen men trying to get at me at once, all anxious to arm me down the street. And fine men, too. Officers, you know. The Blues. Ahem! I was in America a few weeks ago, you know. They made a fuss about admitting me. Confined me on Ellis Island, and all that, just as if I had been Marie Lloyd. But I just looked at the head officials like that—(*Drum*). They let me in at once; and I hadn t been in the United States long before I had an offer of marriage. Fact. Dr. Tanner—you've heard of Dr. Tanner? He's rather a "fast" man, really, but a man's a man for a' that, as the Right Hon. John Burns is fond of remarking. Of course, he had never seen me. Perhaps that accounts for it. Anyhow, there it was. An offer. Doesn't it make you feel jealous? He said he thought we were *so* suited to one another, and that two people like he and I could live cheaper than one. He said I could hunger-strike whenever I liked, and promised never to feed me by force. Dear, kind man! But I should not go to the United States for a husband if I wanted to marry a fasting man. There s always Sacco, you know. But I don t think I shall get married again. Life is quite exciting enough as it is, without that. Since I became an Inspector of H.M. Prisons, I have had so much to take up my time. I was at Exeter the other day inspecting the prison, while some of my friends were making a little bonfire at Devonport in celebration of my return from America. Then business took—(*A voice:* "What about the vote?") You don t want me to talk about Votes for Women, do you? (*Cries of* "No!" *and* "Yes!") What s the use? I can't tell you anything new. You know all the stale old arguments. Of course, we must keep the thing going now we've started. But I came here to enjoy myself to-night and to amuse you. So we'll have the band again, if you please, Mister Conductor, and we ll all join in the chorus. Now then—

Chase me, Charlie! Chase me, Charlie!
Yip i addy—i—ay!
I only grin when they run me in,—
I m out the following day!
In quod I neither bite nor sup,
But when I'm loose I make it up!
So, Chase me, Charlie! Chase me, Charlie!
Yip i—addy—i—ay!!

OUR CRANK'S CORNER.

A SOAP'S FABLES.

By SOAPY SAM.

Once upon a time there lived a Man who tried to please Everyone One day he was smoking a Cigarette when a Person told him that Cigarettes caused Tired Feeling. Whereupon he cast his Fag from him with a large cast and went and bought a Cigar. He then met Another Person, who told him that to smoke Cigars was to ask for spots Before the E es Whereupon he cast away his Flor de Mangul Wurselle and went and bought a Pipe and Tobacco. He met a Third Person who informed him that to smoke Tobacco was to lay himself out for Tango St. Vitus. Whereupon he seized the Person, rammed the Pipe down his throat and strangled him. Moral—Too Many Cooks Gather No Moss.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

SOME GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"Please send me one £100 Pounds on the note of hand along and I will pay you a visit at an early date and you will find me a straight forward man you see what I mean don't you The true heir I have no more time now."

"I am a Spiritualist—a *real one*, knowing the actual condition of things in the 'here' and hereafter. So far I have not seen a ghost, but on two occasions such have been in the next room to me.—My mother was one, whom in broad daylight appeared while my father was shaving in front of a large mirror and told him to be very good as he was soon coming to her, etc.—he went asleep in a chair a few days after with a newspaper in his hand and rolled off on to the floor *dead*—I found him myself, when I went to see what had fallen. The other was an old lady whom I did not know and to whose funeral I went with a friend (the lady to whom she appeared) she had five sisters they had died by degrees until only 2 remain—one will die about the 23rd Sept. 1915 the other 4 years later, and the *latter* will make a will leaving *me* 'something' but not very extrine.—They have an income of £70,000 per annum!!! but it will mostly go to 'The Church (front seats in Heaven for the family etc.!) If they only knew the *Truth!* but such is *not* for them *yet* they have to learn by *experiences*."

"Can you tell me what the sentence was that was passed upon 'Pedlar' Palmer when he was convicted for manslaughter in the train when returning from the races"

"What do you think of the *Freethinker?* Would Chas Bradlaugh care to be one of its collaborators??—If the human race is to be saved??—what is it to be saved from?? I have advised the *Freethinker* to read Horeckels' books and base its future issues upon them—Science is science not wind."

"Four young men held *opposite opinions* resp the *exact qualifications* of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Two of them asserted that the Speaker had no need to possess legal knowledge but simply that knowledge of an ordinary Chairman guiding Debaters as to rules of Procedure, the other two asserted that the Speaker *must be* and is a lawyer.—Now will you kindly tell us through your next issue or following Letter Bag the *exact qualification of the Speaker*."

"I know churches where tea fights are held on Xmas and New Years day. Are you in favour of such performances being abandoned on the days in question, so as everybody can join the home circle."

OUR MAD POET'S CORNER.

SONG OF A SUFFERER

(*Dedicated to the Editor of* JOHN BULL.)

I cannot sleep, I cannot rest, I cannot take my food,
I've tried all sorts of medicine, but they don't do any good;
I've tried persistent exercise, and trudged about all day
With no result whatever—but to wear my boots away.
I thought light literature perhaps might give my brain some ease,
So took up Conic Sections, Hydrostatics, and Chinese;
I tried all sorts of cheering games, from marbles up to whist;
'Twas all in vain; my wandering thoughts compelled me to desist.
Some sudden shock, I thought, might do me good; and so I've been
To music-halls (where bishops go! surely might be seen);
Alas! no use. I sat and watched most carefully, but naught
Occurred there that was strong enough to break my line of thought.
And now, kind Sir, before you as a suppliant I stand,
Another "Human Document" who craves your helping hand:
Oh! send me some prescription, pray! Oh! "cheque this gnawing pain!
The fell disease I'm suffering from is—"'Bullets' on the brain"!

NOW for our Mammoth Football Prizes. Final coupon and your last chance. **See page 23.**

FIRST ROUND CUP CONTEST. FINAL COUPON.

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS

YOUR LAST CHANCE.

£1,000 MUST BE WON

CLOSING DATE, JAN. 9.

£600 FOR NEAREST CORRECT SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.

£300 FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT

£100 FOR MOST CORRECT FORECASTS ON MAUVE COUPON.

Our Final Coupon appears this week. It is your last chance of winning £2,000 for First Round Cup Tie Forecasts. Send as many entries as you like, but don't delay. Closes January 9th.

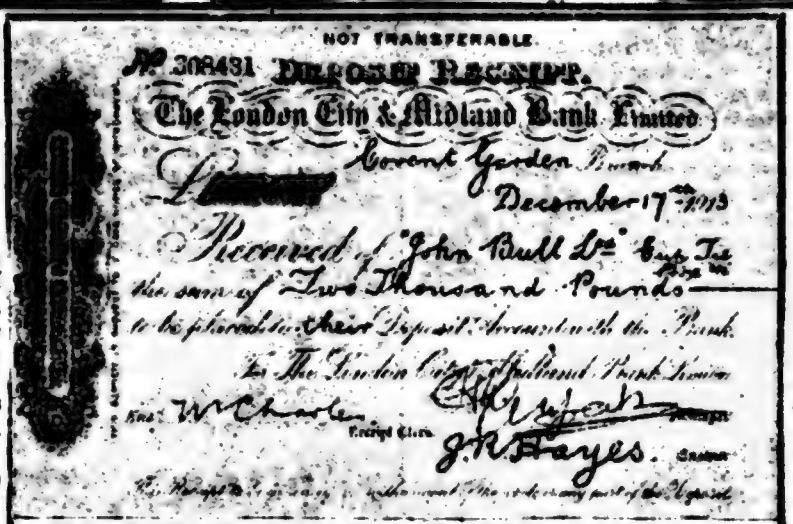
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Our Football Competition Department is now under the personal supervision of "McW.," the well-known Football writer, late of the "Morning Leader," the "Star," and "Daily Chronicle."

Below we give particulars of the mammoth prizes offered, but first read our

NEW WAY OF MARKING THE ENTRANCE FORM

which we have adopted to further safeguard the interests of our competitors.


NOT TRANSFERABLE.
No. 308431 DEPOSIT RECEIPT.
The London City & Midland Bank Limited
Covent Garden Branch
December 17th 1913
Received of John Bull Ltd Cup Tie Dept
the sum of Two Thousand Pounds
to be placed to their Deposit Account with the Bank
For The London City & Midland Bank Limited
W. Charles
J. H. Hayes

WAITING AT THE BANK FOR YOU.

As stated above the matches selected are the **First Round Cup Ties, to be played on Saturday, January 10th,** the competition closing Friday, January 9th.

On the left-hand side of the Entrance Form will be found 3 columns headed respectively, "**Home**," "**Away**," and "**Draw**." When forecasting the results of the matches, if you predict the Home team will win—simply put in ink a **X** in the space provided in the Home column; if you predict the Away team to win—put a **X** in the away column; if you forecast a "Draw," put a **X** in the Draw column. Thus there is no crossing out to do—just mark the coupon like a voting paper—with a **X**. The following examples show the new method at a glance:—

LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES.

HOME	AWAY	DRAW	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM
X			Bradford	v.	Reading
	X		Glossop	v.	Everton
		X	Hull City	v.	Bury

Take the above examples—if you predict Bradford, who are playing at home, to win, you must put a **X** in the Home column; if you predict Everton, who are playing Away, to win, you must put a **X** in the Away column; if in the case of Hull City v. Bury you predict a Draw, put a **X** in the Draw column.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the 20 matches given on the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover. Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking the coupon

The RULES and COUPON Will be found on Page 2 of Cover.

As announced in our last issue, Messrs. Smallman & Terry, the managers of the "John Bull" Football Cup Sweepstake have contributed £750 to our prize fund and therefore we are enabled to offer the colossal and record cash prize of

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS.

The £2,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the 20 matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded—thus

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results we shall in any event award the huge sum of **£1,000** in three distinct "Must-be-won" prizes, as follows:—

If no competitor forecasts the 20 matches correctly we shall pay the cash prize of **£600** to the sender of the most correct forecasts whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10, and a second prize of **£300** to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£100** for the most correct forecasts sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £2,000, or £600 and £300, but also an extra **£100**. Thus in any event

£1,000 MUST BE WON.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

£100 FOR A "MAUVE" COUPON.

We again offer a Special and Extra Mauve Coupon Prize. This time £100 will be paid for the best forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from "Mary Bull" and signed by a lady. Competitors using the Mauve Coupon have the opportunity not only of winning the £2,000 or the £600 or £300, but also an additional £100 prize. The Final Mauve Coupon appears in "Mary Bull" on sale Friday next, January 2

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 30, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize £500 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,323 cash and other prizes value over £2,000.

IMPORTANT OUR FOOTBALL COMPETITION DEPT. IS NOW UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF— **"M. W."** The Football Authority, late of the "Morning Leader," the "Star," and "Daily Chronicle."

Bull's Eyes.

"JOHN BULL'S" NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS:—
To Mr. Redmond—A green ruler.
To Mr. Bonar Law—A new plank.
To General Botha—An Indian club.
To Mr. A. J. Balfour—A tee service.
To Mr. Louis Meyer—A strip of gold.
To Mr. McKenna—A season for the Tube
To the Bishop of London—A pair of kids.
To Sir Edward Carson—An armless Ulster.
To the Bishop of Kensington—A blush rose.
To Mr. Larkin—A gold Albert—Hall marked.
To Mr. Asquith—A model Cabinet, silk lined.
To Mr. Churchill—A box of Smith's crackers.
To Mr. G. K. Chesterton—A lean-to glasshouse.
To Mr. H. W. Massingham—A round of German.
To Sir Oliver Lodge—A case of spirits—medium strength.

* * *

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS:—
To give no quarter to swank.
Never to be out of bed after 2 a.m.
Never to preach without practice.
To go out at the first sign of nagging.
To smile though the corn is shooting.
Never to tell a lie when Truth is looking.
Never to let a pretty face dissolve discretion.
Never to have a drink, except when thirsty.
To give less to the parson and more to the poor.
Never to have a show with moneylender's limelight.
To stop taking money from the children's money-box.
To look for deeper meanings in pressing invitations.
To bring Friend Humour home when any trouble's on.
To be kind to animals—even the cat on the seedling bed.
When late, never to send a telegram to the office—"Unwell."
Never to order a new suit, till the ones unpaid for are reduced to a dozen.

* * *

THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:—
Law and justice.
Bankruptcy and ruin.
Musical and Music hall.
Love's golden dream and matrimon(e)y.
Newspaper reports and unadapted truth.
A lover's parting and a judicial separation.
The value of a kiss before and after marriage.
The size of a man's resolution to rise early, at 11.30 p.m. and 6.30 a.m.
A Parliamentary Candidate's promise and an M.P.'s performance.
Your ordinary signature and the one you make with the Post Office pen.
Our opinion of a critic's discernment when he praises us and when he finds fault.
The size of the fish when you land him and when he is lying cooked on the plate.
The respective ages of a child when it fetches beer and when it travels at half-price on the railway.

* * *

Although Wells had 73 seconds, not one could revive him.

* * *

The L.C.C. has decided on examinations for gardeners. Students should see about their diggings.

* * *

Yarmouth Corporation are to spend £1,500 to advertise the resort. We thought the bloaters did that.

* * *

A kiss under the stars is worth a dozen under the mistletoe.

* * *

"I advise you to lie a little more artistically next time," said the Greenwich Magistrate to a witness. But he gave no hint as to where to draw the line.

* * *

"What made you think he was drunk" asked a solicitor at Clerkenwell. "His eyes were diluted," said the constable. Did he mean watering?

* * *

If your parson's eighteen carat,
Never leave him with the parrot.

* * *

"Rumpsteak is good for the teeth," says a doctor. The dog that seizes the burglar is usually of the same opinion.

* * *

A writer suggests that the birthplace of the novel was the garden of Eden. Doubtless Adam and Eve turned many leaves; and they both told a story.

Old Lady: "What a fuss the papers are making about that portrait of a Liza. Our Lizzie's latest cabinet bangs it into fits."

* * *

Mr. Asquith's olive branch did not save the Lan-ark.

* * *

"Beer is cleaner than milk," says a doctor. Yes, but some of it is washy.

* * *

Ticket Collector (to jolly gent. who is travelling Christmas Eve): "I say, where's your ticket?"
Gent.: "Season—Festish Season."

* * *

We make no secret of the fact that Mr. Mallaby-Deeley has bought JOHN BULL—and the price paid was one penny.

* * *

"The novel is the champagne of literature," says Lord Redesdale. Even Dickens was illustrated by Phiz.

* * *

"Heart of London Sold," says a heading. We wish the purchaser would buy up the other organs.

* * *

"Getting married" was the excuse of two Territorials for non-attendance. They will get plenty of drilling now.

* * *

As the new ground landlord is the member for Harrow, we understand that the famous police-court will now be called Bow and Harrow Street.

* * *

The new Welsh play called "Change" is not by Lloyd George; you get none of that out of him.

* * *

The desire of women to become solicitors is not unnatural: the law has been taking them up, and they wish to return the compliment.

* * *

"Cotton Lower," reads a headline. Was it a button or a tape this time?

* * *

James Larkin personifies the evolution of the patriot from Pat-riot.

* * *

The modern feminine rendering of neck or nothing may be read as nothing o'er neck.

* * *

A "flying bungalow" has been invented. Just the thing for tenants who like to do a flit.

* * *

HE: Could you marry a man who spends all he makes?
SHE: No; but I could love him while it lasted.

* * *

A monument is merely a reminder of one who has been forgotten.

* * *

Harry Lauder informs the public that he is not retiring. We never thought he was.

* * *

The latest Paris garment is of tiger-skin, but it is the woman who hasn't one that looks wild.

* * *

The author who calls his new book "The White Thread," cannot complain if critics describe it as "only sew-sew."

* * *

"Women don't understand men," says A. C. Benson. Bit of luck for the latter, isn't it?

* * *

A Willesden man went to South Africa to avoid paying £18. Moral: when in debt, get out.

* * *

A medical paper recommends rinking for health. Just the thing for those who want a "pick-me-up."

* * *

"The Life of the Fly," has just been published. It ought to be short.

* * *

The man who stands on his dignity doesn't raise himself in the eyes of others.

* * *

The American police want to take babies' finger-prints three days after birth. Why not wait a few weeks and take the little criminal's prints in jam?

* * *

"Horse jumps on a motor-car," we read. A case of justifiable provocation.

* * *

A Missouri girl has been awarded £670 damages against a surgeon who injured her nose. He had to pay through it.

* * *

At Westminster, a witness said she "could not afford to keep her husband." So she "gave him away."

A good resolution: to buy "John Bull," and "Mary Bull" every week during 1914.

YOU NEED ENERGY—Not Drugs

There's many a man dosing himself with poisonous drugs, trying to overcome some weakness or chronic ailment, when he should be helping Nature cure by building up his energy. Remember that most ailments are due to a lack of energy in the vital organs. When some part of your body machinery refuses to work right, there's going to be trouble unless you supply the force it needs.

Now drugs won't give energy. They will stimulate for a day, but the trouble always returns worse than ever. That's because drugs eat up your vitality. They tear down instead of building up. It is proved that energy is nothing other than electricity. The only way to restore it is to restore electricity.

The "Ajax" Body Battery does this gradually, surely, permanently. It sends a current of electric life coursing through your nerves and vitals. It increases circulation and purifies the blood. It drives out pain and weakness and cures disease by removing the cause.

The touch of the "Ajax" current is soothing, gentle, without shock, yet so powerful and invigorating that you can feel the improvement with a few applications. It is an actual generator on the recuperative principle, and requires no charging. It costs much less than a course of drugging.

GET THIS FREE.

If you can't call at the office for a free test and demonstration please ask us at once to post you our free book explaining the subject fully. Our advice is free. The book will be sent in a plain, sealed envelope, post free. Write to-day.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

(Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

AJAX, LTD.

"BULLETS" COMPETITORS!

Notice Re Turkey Prizes.

¶ Owing to reasons of space "John Bull" cannot print the names and addresses of their Turkey winners.

¶ The proprietors, however, have kindly acceded to our request to supply us with the full list, and the names and addresses of winners will be found in this week's issue of the "Competitors' Journal"—which can be obtained at any newsagent or bookstall in the country.

¶ The names of the winners of Turkeys each week will also be found in succeeding issues of the "Competitors' Journal."

THE

"COMPETITORS' JOURNAL"

is a 24-page weekly paper issued in the interest of competitors. It gives you advice and help which will lead you nearer the goal you are seeking.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION—some eight months ago—"C.J." readers have won over

£21,000

in Big Prizes alone. Join the happy band NOW!

Order the "C.J." through your newsagent, or it will be sent post free for one year 6s., six months 3s., three months 1s. 6d., or one month 6d.

THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL,

17a, Glasshouse Street, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

YOUR NEXT Year ? PAY

What did you do last year to make sure that this year you would be a better paid man and in a secure position?

What are you going to do this year to make sure that next year you will be a still better paid man?

Surely you are going to do something, and will not be content with merely wishing?

You must do something to make this a Happy New Year for yourself. You cannot afford to go along, year in and year out, just marking time, without improving your position and increasing your earnings.

You must face facts and deal with them.

The most important fact you have to face is this:—You must do something this year to make yourself worth more and you must start out **now** to do it. If you will start **now** you will be certain to be able to look back upon 1914 as the year when you started out for **success.**

You cannot make sure of Success in your work, whatever it may be, unless you qualify yourself for a better job and for better pay. The qualification which **always** appeals to an employer to-day is—to be a **trained** man, trained to make the best of yourself and of your work. You cannot succeed without a sound, practical training in your work. Such a training compels success.

Such a training has been given to thousands of successful men—men made successful by the training—by the International Correspondence Schools. **What** is this training? **How** is it conducted? **Why** does it lead to success?

Write to us and we will give you such full and detailed information that you will be able to judge for yourself. **Do it now.** Start for Success **to-day.**

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.

3b INTERNATIONAL BUILDINGS, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.

(To avoid delay please use our full address.)

Please send me a copy of the I.C.S. Book, which explains how I can gain a thorough, practical, and up-to-date knowledge of the subject before which I have marked X and so qualify for a Secure Position and Better Pay.

COMMERCIAL TRAINING	—Domestic Engineering	—Structural Engineering
—Business Training	—Steam Engineering	—Concrete Engineering
—Book-Keeping	—Steam Electric	—Civil Engineering
—Salesmanship	—Mechanical Engineering	—Quantity Surveying
—Advertising	—Draughtsmanship	—Mining
—Show Card Writing	—Heating and Ventilating	**VARIOUS**
—Window Dressing	—Sheet Metal Work	—Illustrating
TECHNICAL TRAINING	—Shop Practice	—Designing
—Boiler Engineering	—Foundry Work	—Applied Art
—Marine Engineering	—Electrical Engineering	—French, German, Spanish, Italian
—Gas-Power Engineering	—Electric Traction	—Agriculture, Poultry Farming
—Motor Engineering	—Electric Lighting	Many other Courses to choose from.
—Textile Manufacturing	—Architecture	
	—Contracting and Building	

Name .....

Address .....

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the continual growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "Bi scuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send*

Each Financial and Insurance Inquiry must be accompanied by Postal Order for One Shilling.

GENERAL.

THE EDITOR desires to return thanks to the numerous readers who have sent him good wishes for the present festive season.

"ENGLISHMAN IN WALES."—When our distinguished contemporary, *Canada*, will condescend to point out where, and why, we are wrong, we will deal with it. We repeat, meanwhile, that Britain will never get any ships from the Dominion, and that it will ultimately join forces with America.

"MINISTER OF MINES" (Seghill).—Rebuking us for our presumption in writing about "Capitalist Lawbreakers" in our issue of 11th October, 1913, you tell us we are "demanding that colliery owners shall provide something which does not exist," and you proceed: "Under a Business Government would not a mining man deal with mining matters?" Of course he would.

B. S. (Glasgow).—Thank you for acquainting us with the fact that, in reference to the Land campaign of Mr. Lloyd George, the *Glasgow Evening News*, a Tory paper, asks "Why should valuable time and energy be wasted in Party strife instead of seeking a business-like policy, the basis of an agreement that would most surely promote the interests of the nation?" Wisdom hath spoken.

E. F. (Roundhay) says, "From my many very remarkable experiences I have unearthed a most heinous deception played on the public in regard to lunacy and lunatic asylums. I am satisfied that many of our public men are wickedly and wilfully deceiving the public." How long has our friend been awake?

"A SILLS" (Derby).—Why haven't you the courage to give your real name and address? What a contemptible creature you must be.

W. T. (Aston).—You will be very foolish indeed to take your family to Vancouver, especially at the present time. The streets are full of out-o'-works. At the best of times a man who can "do work of any kind" would be heavily handicapped as an emigrant in Canada, but if he does take the risk, he should take it alone, when the winter is over. If successful he could send for his family afterwards; but it is more probable his family would have to send for him.

W. J. S. P. (Cardiff).—Don't be too hard on the *South Wales Echo* for locating Brisbane in Western Australia instead of in Queensland. To err is human, to forgive divine.

R. M. L. (Southport).—So you think "there are many people in the country waiting to hear" what Lord Rosebery has to say "on the present political situation." We must wake him up.

"ENGLISHMAN" (Whitechapel).—Because we dispute the proposition of the Vicar of Mellor that a Jew never walks out with a Christian girl with a good motive, you inform us that for once in a way we are talking through the back of our neck. Expert articulation, good sir.

"FELLER" (C.-on-M.).—In a hosier's shop window in Oxford Road, Manchester, you saw a card, "Latest fashions in neck wear," pinned on a pair of gent's embroidered stockings. Well, what of it? It may be by this fashion that the shopkeeper hopes to collar the custom.

MISS M. (Frodsham).—Pars to the Editor. He owns the biggest blue pencil on the premises.

W. W. (Ulverston) AND OTHERS.—As we have pointed out dozens of times, the British Clothing Co., of Oldham Street, Manchester, are trick advertisers; it is your own fault for dealing with them. All we can suggest is that you should issue a summons for the return of the deposit to which you are entitled. If you read these columns regularly you would not be fooled by such people.

E. G. (Lewisham).—The police in various parts of the country had nothing to do, so they organised a campaign against whist drives. They won some cases, but got a bad fall in London. Their action was thoroughly unpopular, and we do not think they would interfere in any way with what you propose. Don't advertise, however, but have the tickets distributed by friends among friends. Whist drives, technically illegal or otherwise, are a popular, and, where honestly conducted, harmless and even commendable form of social entertainment.

R. B. D. (Monmouth).—Alleged poem on Lloyd George as old as Methuselah.

F. A. (Notting Hill).—Excuse us, good sir. If we invited every inventor of a safety hatpin, safety lock, safety window catch, or safety trouser button to call upon us and demonstrate the efficacy of the same, we shouldn't be able to find time even for dinner.

J. H. W. (Noel Park) AND OTHERS cavil at our award of a "Biscuit" to the *Daily Express* for referring to a "sprig of apple-blossom cut from a Blenheim orange-tree," on the ground that the Blenheim-orange is a well-known variety of apple. True; but surely the *Express's* placing of the hyphen between "orange" and "tree" entirely changes a correct description.

L. S. (Sherwood) wonders what the Turning Aeroplane Co., of Hanwell, are up to. Several weeks ago, he says, he sent 3s. 6d. to them for model aeroplane material, but though he has written them a dozen times since, up to December 12th he had not received the goods. When he enclosed a stamped envelope for a reply, they sent it back empty. They are hereby advised to hurry up.

EDNA ROWE, age 13 (Huntingdon).—"You may notice there are four letters in my Christian name and four in my surname. I have two brothers and two sisters, all of them with four letters in their names. I am 13 on 13th of this month, and mum and dad were married on December 13th." Seems a coincidental family, Edna. Happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

"FOND OF BISCUITS" (Glenluce, N.B.) AND OTHERS.—You think we ought to award Mr. Stevens a "Biscuit" for the sketch in which he has drawn JOHN BULL with the front cover on the back. There is no accounting for these artists when it gets near Christmas. We have known them put the back cover on the front.

F. M. (Southport).—We agree with you that revelations about individual clergy have been so very frequent of late as to cause one to wonder whether, as a class, the clergy are really any better morally than any other class. But don't forget that the profession of holy man is a hard thing to live up to.

F. C. (Fulham).—As you "fail to see any danger in flying upside down," by all means have the courage of your convictions, or, at any rate, of one of them.

A. H. C. (Holsworthy).—The best answer we can give you is that if the Novelty Co., of 7, Maud Street, Canning Town, are "genuine people," they will send you the postcards for which you have sent them a shilling.

J. H. S. (Sunbury).—Can quite understand you "cannot believe your eyes" that customers of the Central Hotel, Portsmouth, in the grill-room are given serviettes which have been previously used by others. Perhaps your eyes are out of order.

J. S. T. (Glasgow).—The poster of the *Glasgow News* "Big Hotel Burglary. Lloyd George Interviewed," didn't mean that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had started in a new line of business. He is still in charge of the Treasury Cash Box.

P. T. (Margate).—Fifty-six years' faithful service with the N.E. Railway, and now, at 73, retired on a pension of 1s. a week! This is just the luck of some people. If he had been a lord and a director he would have been retired on £400 or £500 a year.

The Final Coupon for our £2,000 Cup Tie Prize appears this week. Turn to page 23.

"DEE JAY" (Louth).—Please communicate with the Publisher, giving your full address.

C. T. (Keynham).—If the vicar has any complaint to make of the tone of our comments, he will complain to us if he wishes. Your rushing in to do so does not impress us.

"FARE THEE WELL."—What we gather from your letter is that Mr. G. K. Chesterton or his brother should be Lord Chief Justice instead of Sir Rufus Isaacs. No, thank you. We don't believe in everything going to the fat of the land.

G. H. (Seacombe).—Yes, the Waterman Co., of Theobald's Road, London, have frequently come under our notice, and we advise you to put their circulars in the fire. They want your money; you won't get much of theirs. They have taken in vain the name of a highly respectable firm of fountain-pen manufacturers who would not be seen in the same street with them.

R. F. B. (Wimbledon).—If you will send your name and address, we shall be glad to answer your questions.

Mrs. J. P.—The Lost Friends' Inquiry Bureau (Francis Cameron, Secretary), East Dulwich, is not likely to be of any advantage to you. Keep your money in your pocket.

Mrs. A. B. (Abercrby).—You inform us that, though in December, 1912, you paid 2s. 6d. for an advertisement in "Theatrical, Variety and Apartments Directory," with the promise of a copy, you have not received the book or had any intimation of the appearance of your advertisement. The publisher trades, or traded, from 22, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, in February last, since when you have not heard from him. What does he say?

M.A.C.S. (Bermondsey).—It is all very well your saying that Mr. Lloyd George ought to be fried, but in the present state of politics we can't please everybody. Only last week a man your way said he ought to be boiled.

"INQUIRER" (London, S.).—"Why is a Post Office Directory never to be found at a Post Office?" Because we have not yet arrived at the era of the Business Government.

J. B. T. (Brussels).—You "beg to propose a resolution that every reader of JOHN BULL and *Mary Bull* should, on a day to be appointed for the purpose, send Lord Loreburn a postcard inviting him to visit Long Acre and see the judging of our "Bullets" Competition. If you can obtain a seconder, put it to the meeting, and carry same in the usual manner, we don't object.

A. P. (Manchester).—Sorry we cannot come to the Southport Pavilion to see the "mysterious Hindoo Sorcerer Linga-Singh pull a local heavy four-wheeled carriage by his eyes alone." However, you have our permission to bet him a JOHN BULL "Biscuit" to a mango that he can't lift a grand piano by the roots of his eyebrows.

H. D. (Gorton).—If Mr. Alexander, who is to oppose Mr. Thewlis, the Chairman of the Manchester Watch Committee, in the municipal elections, stood as a Business or a non-Party candidate instead of as "a prominent Conservative" who "takes a keen interest in municipal and national politics" the case would be different. No, Party politics doesn't merely mean no Liberal-Party politics, but no Tory-Party politics as well. Neither all the genius nor all the virtues are with the Tories.

"MAUDE" (Landsworth).—In drawing our attention to "the enclosed cutting" you ask "if it is not possible to get the husband (morally a murderer) punished." But, according to the cutting, said husband "denied that a fortnight before her child was born he held his wife by the throat till her tongue protruded or that he assaulted her five days after the child's birth," and the verdict of the coroner's jury was "according to the medical evidence." We must not let our sympathy run away with us.

J. P. (Bury).—We will tell our cartoonist that he made Mr. Lloyd George do what no billsticker ever has done, to wit, "post a bill in between the ladder on which he is standing and the board on which he is sticking the bill." But we know beforehand he will tell us you haven't realised that Mr. Lloyd George is a bit of an acrobat.

T. G. (Tollington Park).—It is not our view that the whole question of a Free Sunday is bound up with cinematograph entertainments. They are organised for business and we are not going to pretend otherwise.

W. B. (Cheshire) tells us that "the dud" London Jewellery Syndicate, of Barbican Court, are offering him a handsome watch free of charge. We don't think! When our friend comes to London he should pay a visit to the Jewellery Syndicate, and he will find that, instead of it occupying palatial premises as set forth on its notepaper, it has a couple of dirty little rooms in a back alley.

F. S. (Westbury).—Trusting we "will expose the mongers and sweaters who get all their work done by apprentices and underpaid dopes," you trust in vain. You are too strong in the arm.

LEGAL.

"FLETCHER" (Strangeways).—If you give a cheque in payment for goods, knowing that you have no money in the bank to meet it, that is an act likely to get you into very serious trouble; if the bank honours it, however, though you have no overdraft, it can certainly sue you and get judgment for the money. On the other hand, if you stopped the cheque, and they nevertheless paid the money, they must abide by their loss.

R. J. S. (Canterbury).—You would have no chance at all in proceedings for defamation of character. Your defence of your husband does you credit, but nothing can be gained by going all through the case again.

Mrs. C. (Hoole).—Owing to the low rent, your landlord is compelled by law to keep the premises in a habitable and safe condition. As you have called his attention to the dangerous state of the floor, he will be liable for damages if an accident happens owing to his neglect to repair it. It is certainly mean of him not to give the matter attention after you have been a good tenant for twenty-one years.

A. M. (Worksop).—If your husband leaves the firm before the expiration of his agreement, he will be liable for damages for breach of contract.

J. C. (Sheffield) received a summons for a sum he did not owe; he therefore took no notice of it—the result being that judgement was given against him in his absence and he was duly notified that he had been ordered to pay 5s. per week. This notice he treated with placid indifference, when behold! one day he received a rude shock, for the bailiffs entered his house, and seized his furniture. Whereupon he bestirred himself, and satisfied the alleged creditor that the debt had been paid. Now, therefore, he desires to claim damages, but, sad to state, his claim would not be successful. He should have attended in the first place, and satisfied the Court that the money was not owing; then judgment would have been given in his favour, and the subsequent trouble avoided. J. C. now, no doubt, realises that the Court will not be treated with silent contempt.

W. O. B. (Southampton).—If your employer refuses to stamp your Insurance card, you should communicate with the Insurance Commissioners, Buckingham Gate, S.W.; they will soon compel him to stamp the card, and possibly his foot.

R. J. P. (Hanley).—Agreements "in restraint of trade" are binding provided the terms are reasonable. The one you submit would be enforced. Better start business outside the prescribed radius.

Mrs. F. is very anxious to obtain a divorce but, unfortunately, has not the means. She would willingly act as housekeeper without remuneration to any solicitor who would undertake the case. Would any of our legal readers like the job?

T. M. (Croydon).—As you left the house before the expiration of your agreement, you are liable for the rent for the unexpired term, and as a summons has been issued you are also liable for the costs. It is the law, so pay up and look cheerful.

E. L. (Hackney).—As the person died without making a will all the legitimate children share the personal property equally. The illegitimate one is entitled to nothing.

"ARDENT" (Swiss Cottage).—You must stick the stamps on your employees' Insurance cards, whether your balance-sheet shows a loss or not, and whether you like it or not. If you don't, you will be heavily fined and your goods distrained upon. It is useless kicking against the pricks, and equally so to go to prison as a protest. Leave that silly game to the Suffragettes.

V. G. (Edmonton Union).—Yes, the Guardians can prevent you leaving, unless you take the children with you. It is a hard rule in some cases, but there is a sort of creature, you know, who wouldn't keep his children at all if he could get anybody else to keep them.

"VERTA" (Bristol).—If you have given an order for the insertion of advertisements for three months, you ought to receive a weekly copy as a voucher. The onus is with you if you should delay or dispute payment, to prove that your advertisements have not been inserted.

"PERSEVERE."—The lady cannot succeed in her action for "Breach of Promise" on her uncorroborated evidence. Unless she can produce some written or verbal confirmation, she will fail. Beware of widows!

L. A. (Harringay).—You could claim damages for negligence from the young man next door, who accidentally shot you in the arm. Your employers are not liable.

L. G. (Hull).—As the teeth do not fit, you should return them and decline to pay. Before doing this, however, you had better go to another dentist of good repute, and let him examine them, so that in the event of your being sued he could give evidence that the work was not properly executed.

Football competitors! Please note our new method of marking the Coupon.

FINANCIAL.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Inquiry.

"BOTTOMLEY, DAWSON AND CO." (Wormwood Street, E.C.).—S.C. (Co. Tyrone).—We know nothing of this firm and do not advise an investment in the shares it is puffing

5 TO 6 PER CENT. INVESTMENT.—CONSTANT.—We should think that Great Northern Deferred, at about 54½, would be just about the thing for you.

ORCHESTRELLE PREFS.—ORCHESTRELLE.—A fair Industrial investment, but not what is known as "safe." You should restrict your investment in this kind of concern to very small amounts

"JOHN BULL," LIMITED.—GLASWEGIAN.—The Accounts for 1913 will disclose a highly satisfactory state of affairs, the Company having done exceedingly well during 1913. The 6 per cent. Preference shares constitute a very sound and attractive investment.

COUNTY COUNCIL STOCK.—EXETER.—In the circumstances you might take an opportunity to realise, and invest in some of the new scrips, for instance, the Port of London 4 per cent. stock, issued at 92 and now quoted at 1 discount.

METROPOLITAN AND COUNTIES INVESTORS.—R. C. (Beccles).—You must expect this kind of treatment from such people, and you, as well as they, can plead the Gaming Act. Do not pay anything further, and in future have nothing to do with such people.

OIL SHARES.—H. T. (Wood Green).—We suppose it is no use rubbing it in with regard to your foolishness in entering into engagements which you have been unable to fulfil. The Company is now in liquidation, and you had better throw yourself on the mercy of the firm in question, showing them that they cannot get blood out of a stone.

CAMWAL.—E. D. B. (Millwall).—We do not recommend investment in any of the issues of this concern. Its Preference dividend has been very irregularly paid, and there is a good deal still in arrear, while the Ordinary shares have not received anything since 2½ per cent. was paid in December, 1900. There is no market for the Preferred or Ordinary shares. You can invest to very much better advantage in other Industrials.

CUNLIFFE, RUSSELL AND CO.—ALPHA.—You will be quite safe in doing business with this well-known firm. Their address is 10 rue du 4 Septembre, Paris.

BRADEN COPPER.—INKPOT.—We believe the concern is of a respectable character, but there is no market for the shares, which is a great disadvantage, apart from all other considerations. We do not, therefore, recommend a purchase

CHARTERED.—BRADING.—There is nothing wrong with the Company, and as soon as the matter of the land scheme has been adjusted a recovery is expected in the shares. In the meantime, they are affected by the general depression of the markets, and their very prominence makes them peculiarly susceptible to Bear operations

NIGERIA BITUMEN.—W. G. M.—This concern has been a great disappointment, and is now practically on its last legs. The shares have altogether dropped out of the dealings.

INTERNATIONAL LAND AND LUMBER COMPANY.—W. G. J. (Gowerton).—Even the Canadian handbooks make no mention of this concern, which, therefore, seems to be quite unknown. We should not advise you to have anything to do with this kind of concern

MAIKOP VALLEY.—MAXWELLTOWN.—This Company has been one of the numerous disappointments of the Maikop Oilfield. Hold your shares, but do not average, pending further developments on the field, especially as regards the deep boring operations now in progress.

COTTON OPERATIONS.—A. H. (Aberford).—These circulars are purposely of a confused character, so that you should not be able to make head or tail of them, and we strongly advise you not to have anything to do with such fancy transactions. You are bound to lose your money in them sooner or later.

CORNISH TIN AND COPPER MINE.—PAR.—This Company has not been launched under favourable auspices, and there is no market in the shares. It is doubtful whether any work is being done on the property.

CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—G. M. (Edinburgh).—We think you will be acting quite wisely by taking an interest in the undertaking. The important cable recently received from the Company's Consulting Engineer, Mr. J. E. Mills-Davies, to which we are referring editorially, is, in our opinion, an effective reply to those critics who have allowed their prejudice to blind their eyes to the enormous importance of the undertaking.——J. J. (Walsall).—We presume you refer to the shares of this Company, the sponsors for which are the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, of 80, Coleman Street, London, E.C., and we should prefer an investment in them to the other one you mention, although that is not entirely without merit.

INSURANCE.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—WESTGATE.—(1) We are unable to recommend you to purchase a house through this Association in connection with their investment policy. The system is expensive and inequitable from the borrower's standpoint. (2) A local Building Society would probably assist in the project you mention, but you should carefully count the cost before embarking upon building operations.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—NIMBUS.—Write to the Receiver, Mr. E. C. Pegler, 61, Watling Street, London, E.C., and ascertain if you may expect to receive any portion of the money you have contributed. As regards the "New Middle Age Pension Society," on no account have anything to do with it.

UNITED FRIENDLY INSURANCE SOCIETY.—H. C. B. (Portsmouth).—Call upon the local representative, or write to the head office and press for an immediate settlement. In the event of payment being withheld, bring your case under the notice of the Insurance Committee for your district.

ANNUITY.—G. R. (Stoke-on-Trent).—We should give the preference to the Confederation Life Association, 23, Fleet Street, London.

INSURANCE POLICY.—R. R. (Trehafod).—It is not the kind of policy in demand, and you would experience difficulty in finding a purchaser. Ascertain if a surrender value is obtainable. If so, and the amount offered is reasonable, accept it.——SIG-MA.—The policy having been assigned and subsequently surrendered, the "Assured" cannot now set up a claim.

ROYAL PROVINCIAL SOCIETY.—D. C. (Derby).—Your request that the correct name of the assured should be endorsed on the policy is reasonable and proper. Communicate direct with the head office on the subject. We have no information as regards the financial status of this society.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—D. W. H.—The policy conditions apparently limit the amount of risk to £5, and you cannot claim more.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA INSURANCE CORPORATION.—J. D. (Southwark).—If a Surrender Value is payable, we should be inclined to accept it, and take out a policy with one of the established Life Assurance Companies, with a good bonus record. Meanwhile, until this is arranged the premium payment must be continued, otherwise the policy will lapse and all monies paid be forfeited to the Company.—F. E. M. (Garstang).—If you can obtain a reasonable Surrender Value you should accept it and take out a policy with one of the well-known offices paying good bonuses. There is, of course, no risk in your continuing the policy, the liability under it being guaranteed by the "Commercial Union."

THE QUEEN'S PARK (CREWE) TAYLOR-MILLS SELF-HELP MONEY SOCIETY.—H. H. (Crewe).—We are not favourably impressed, and do not consider this class of Society a desirable repository for the savings of the working classes.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—A. B. (Mornington).—We should not rest satisfied with the explanation given you. Communicate with the head office direct, and request them to have the matter put right.

ARMY AND NAVY AND GENERAL ASSURANCE.—S. J. (Swansea).—For a moderate risk, such as would meet the requirements of your business, we see no objection to your effecting the insurance with this Association. There are, however, much stronger Offices.

SPORTING.

Sporting inquiries must be addressed to the Sporting Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

SMALLMAN AND TERRY (Geneva).—BULLITE.—There is not an atom of foundation for the statement made by "Billy Barnes," an alias of that notorious Dutch swindler, De Paau, whom we have so frequently exposed. Messrs. Smallman and Terry's business, for the *bona-fides* of which we vouch, is firmly established, and you need be under no apprehension.

PATRICK O'BRIEN (Lucerne).—B. H. (Westminster).—There is no connection between Patrick Farley, of Glasgow, who also describes himself as "of Lucerne, Switzerland," and Mr. Patrick O'Brien. The former, we understand, is unknown in Lucerne, and probably only collects his letters through an agent, whereas Mr. Patrick O'Brien has been established there for some time in spacious offices, and with an adequate staff to deal with his extensive business. We understand that books of tickets for the Grand National Sweep are on the point of being issued.

DAVID COPE (Tudor Street, E.C.).—STARTER.—We have gone fully into this matter, and understand that Mr. Cope offered to refer the dispute to Tattersall's, or any other Sporting authority. Eventually you decided to take the decision of the *Sportsman*, who found that the total amount due to you was £10 10s. This was paid by Mr. Cope on December 17th, and we have seen the cheque. What more do you want?

Your knowledge of Football form may be worth £2,000. Now is your opportunity. Final Coupon.

CITY NOTES.

[For Financial and Insurance Replies, see Letter-Bag pages.]

The Stock Markets.

The past week has been so broken up by holidays that there has been no real opportunity of transacting business, but now that the settlement has been surmounted, business is likely to improve in various directions. There is certainly plenty of scope for an all-round rise, considering that, according to the *Bankers' Magazine*, the depreciation for the whole of the present year in the value of 387 representative securities, has been no less than 186 millions sterling, against a total depreciation of 85 millions for 1912. The latter year was bad enough, but 1913 was still worse, and during December various leading securities, notably Consols, marked new low records Since then Consols have received some support from the Government sinking fund, and from the leading financial institutions. Perhaps the most encouraging development is the steady improvement in Home Railway stocks, not only because of the favourable dividend outlook, but also on indications of a more progressive policy on some of the leading companies. The outlook is also very hopeful for Oil shares, and we confidently predict 1914 will be a record year for the Oil industry. The hole-and-corner methods of advertising certain Colonial Loans have resulted in another fiasco in connection with the Sierra Leone Loan, of which the underwriters had to take over 90 per cent. As a result, the stock is quoted at ¾ discount.

The Stock Exchange Star Chamber.

The London Stock Exchange and its Committee, whose formal title is the Committee for General Purposes, has of late been so much in evidence that a short note about this managing body may not be uninteresting.

The Committee consists of 31 gentlemen who are no doubt quite competent to deal with the ordinary routine work. They are able to re-elect the members each year, sanction authorised and unauthorised clerks, fix settling days in various securities, and determine whether certain stocks shall or shall not be officially quoted. It is when they leave routine and come on questions out of the ordinary that they begin to blunder. They have been known to give decisions in direct defiance of their own rules, but the gravest position is reached when this body attempts to deal with matters of discipline. It is then we find that the methods of the Committee for General Purposes are such as would disgrace the committee of a boys cricket club. This body may be inquiring into some matter of routine and may have taken evidence which is of a conversational character across the table. The matter may relate to things which have taken place a year back, new names may be introduced and statements of fact or otherwise laid before the Committee. Then perhaps it would like to see some of the persons owning these names, and a member of the firm is requested to attend before the Committee. He attends and is asked some questions relating to the matter which has probably long since passed from his mind. He thinks perhaps Mr. A. and Mr. B., two of his partners, may know more of the matter. He is directed to fetch them at once. When they arrive they are asked questions of detail which they cannot answer fully. On an adjourned inquiry they are able to give fuller information, but then all the persons interested are making statements or counter-statements, questions are asked by the Committee, and if one of the attending members of the Exchange asks a question in the nature of cross-examination he is very likely called to order by the Chairman, who requests that he "will please address his remarks to the Chair." The Committee will suddenly decide they have heard enough "evidence," and they will hear nothing further. At a later date Mr. A. and Mr B are again required to attend, to be informed that they have brought themselves within this or that rule of the Rules and Regulations of the Stock Exchange, which may render them liable to expulsion or suspension. There is no appeal. At a later date the "culprit" is informed of the offence of which he is found guilty

Just fancy the whole business lives and careers of members being at the mercy of a body practising such methods! Is there any other authority in this country who would find any person, over whom it exercises jurisdiction, guilty of any offence without formulating a distinct charge against and allowing the accused to hear all the evidence and cross-examine the witnesses and call his own witnesses?

Showell's Brewery.

At the time of going to press we do not know whether the shareholders in Showell's Brewery, Limited, have adopted the preposterous scheme which the directors have sought to foist on them, but we can scarcely believe that they will be so foolish as to do so. Even as modified, the scheme has nothing to recommend it, unless it be the £1,500 which is to be paid to each of the two directors if the wonderful bargain they have made with Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, is carried through. Allsopps guarantee a dividend of 2½ per cent. (it was to be 2 per cent. originally) on the Preference shares, but the company is already earning enough to pay so much, so that the guarantee is not of much practical value. Allsopps further agree to subscribe for 100,000 new 1s. shares (£5,000), which will carry complete control of the business and the reversion to four-fifths of all future profits beyond £15,000 This looks most excellent business from Allsopps' point of view, and it is not surprising that the shares should have risen from 9 to 20 since the scheme was first mooted. But what about the unfortunate Showell's shareholders? In spite of bad management and other reverses, they have a fine property with solid assets valued at £800,000 subject to a debenture debt of £430,000, so that there is some £370,000 as security for the rest of the capital, and this is to be bartered away for a quite unnecessary guarantee. The brewing industry is steadily recovering some of its old prosperity, and there is no good reason why Showell's should not make much more handsome profits in the future than it has in the past few years. The recent meetings were held with closed doors and no report of the proceedings was sent to shareholders who could not attend, so that they are quite in the dark as to what transpired.

The Law Guarantee Trust Scandal.

The presentation of the eminently satisfactory report by the liquidators of their stewardship in the matter of realising the assets and administering the affairs of the wretched Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society' Limited, recalls the fact that creditors and shareholders have, apparently, dropped all idea of seeking redress against those who brought about the downfall of the Company. It is a remarkable sign of this remarkable age that whilst some out-at-elbows bucket-shop sharp is pounced upon by the authorities for defrauding a half-pay captain out of a ten-pound note, men of position, wealth and influence, who have impoverished thousands of hard-working people by their mismanagement—if not worse—of an undertaking dealing in millions, and have created victims by the score, are permitted to escape. In the circumstances, Sir William Peat and his colleague are doing wonders in nursing the remaining assets of the company, but we still hope that some public-spirited shareholders will set the law in motion. The evidence we adduced in the famous Ronald libel case is still available.

Oil in South Africa.

It was indeed unfortunate that the appearance of yet another interview with Mr. Cunningham Craig, the Oil expert, who recently paid a flying visit to South Africa, in which he was said to have formed an unfavourable opinion as to the possibility of oil being found in the Colony, should have synchronised with the receipt in London of a cable from Mr. J. E. Mills Davies, the consulting engineer to the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, intimating the discovery of "strong indications of gas" at a depth of 115 feet in the test borehole which the Company is sinking. The significance of this news is that it tends to disprove Mr. Cunningham Craig's pet theory as to the origin of oil, which we may incidentally mention is shared by no other well-known oil expert in the world. And when one remembers that Mr. Craig spent only three months investigating the geological conditions of a country which he was visiting for the first time—half the size of Europe, his views, whether expressed to newspaper reporters or, as we should have thought would have been more correct, embodied in an official report to the Union Government, must necessarily be accepted with considerable reserve.

£2,000 can be won—£1,000 must be won—for easy Cup Tie Forecasts. See page 23.

"BULLETS"—NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS!

£1,750 in Prizes to be Won this Week

1ST PRIZE! **£500** **1ST PRIZE!**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

250 PRIZES	4,000 OTHER PRIZES	1,000 PRIZES
OF 5/- EACH.	VALUE £900	OF 2/6 EACH.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS
CANDID FRIENDS
THE WOMAN PAYS
TROUBLE BREWING
PANTOMIME JOKES
A FOOL'S PARADISE
COMING HOME
MODEL HUSBAND

A REGULAR HERO
KNOWS EVERYTHING
RE-AWAKENED
A SQUARE DEAL
WITHOUT HOPE
MARCHING ORDERS
NO SUCH LUCK
BROKEN DOWN

SCENTING MISCHIEF
OUT OF SORTS
PLAYING HAVOC
HEAVILY TAXED
WAR DUTY CALLS
URGENTLY NEEDED
A GOOD FAIRY
HOUSE PARTIES

NEVER WORN OUT
OUR OLD NOBILITY
GIVING HIM AWAY
SEEING SNAKES
FIRST FOOTING
SOMMADIER WELLS
NOT FASHIONABLE
BELOW THE BELT

A CERTAIN DRAW
MILITARY TRAINING
COMING TO TOWN
ORANGE PEEL
A FAST PAL
FORTY THIEVES
GOLDEN RULE
GOOD SEATS

5,323 PRIZES THIS WEEK

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "MILITARY TRAINING," and take the letters "I" and "Y," using the word "Our" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "IMPROVES OUR YOUTH." From the example, "URGENTLY NEEDED," the Bullet, "RUN USUALLY" can be formed. Again, if you choose the example, "A BIG DIFFERENCE," using the letter "A" as initial for both the first and last words, you can form the Bullet, "ASLEEP AND AWAKE."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition, are in no way debarred from winning again.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, January 7th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(88) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 31.

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated January 10th.

Closing date, Wednesday, January 7th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(88) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 31.

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 88." "JOHN BULL." LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated January 24th.

For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

RESULT OF 63RD BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. LEONARD TOMLINSON,
9, Low Pavement, Nottingham.

Example:—KERPING WATCH.
Bullet:—PARSONS' WIVES NOW.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. WM. CARROLL,
7, Camden Quay,
Cork City, Ireland.

Example:—MAKING ADVANCES.
Bullet:—SPINSTER IMAGINES EVERYBODY.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. T. HIDSON,
30, Wellington Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Example:—WON'T COME OFF.
Bullet:—NIPPER'S EAR FORTUNATELY.

20 Prizewinners of £210s each.

Mr. A. J. DAY, 161, Fulbourne Road, Walthamstow:
IN A HOLE—"A BOLT" OFTEN.

Mr. H. A. WINSTANLEY, 38, Albion Street, Ayres Road, Old Trafford, Manchester:
IN THE SLUMS—SMILES WITHOUT SMILES.

Mr. FELIX HAMILTON, Cadona's Pictures, Prestonpans, N.B.:
WON'T COME OFF—"FUNNY" COMEDIANS OFTEN.

Mrs. E. F. MILLER, 217, Strone Road, Manor Park, E.:
GHOST STORIES—HEARTS ARE TRUMPS.

Mr. THOMAS J. GAVIN, 236, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.:
ALWAYS AT WORK—THE PURCHASER—TOYS.

Mr. A. DANIELS, 3, Glade Street, Bolton, Lancs.:
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS—ANOTHER STATIONERS "HAUL."

Mr. G. A. LACKINGTON, 25, Whitburn Road, Lewisham, S.E.:
HER PAST—"RINGS" WITH ADVENTURES.

Mr. H. JOHNSON, 40, Camberwell Grove, S.E.:
POSTMAN'S TROUBLES—ON DUTY "RENT."

Mr. J. CAME, 98, Sandford Street, Newtown, Exeter:
WON'T COME OFF—FROM SOIL—CHRISTABEL.

Mr. W. T. BUTEUX, 70, Russell Road, Custom House, E.:
WON'T COME OFF—MERRY WIDOW'S WEEDS.

Mr. W. A. LANE, The Croft, Ethelwulf Road, West Worthing:
PARTY GAMES—"RING O' ROSES."

Pte. H. LUCAS, 9586, No. 2 Co., 3rd Battn. Coldstream Guards, Chelsea Barracks, S.W.:
ILL CONCEALED—"COMPLIMENTARY STALLS" INVARIABLY.

Mr. GEORGE PORTER, 11, Bush Street, Burnley, Lancs.:
BEATING TIME—ACTRESS BEFORE MIRROR.

HELENE MONTADOR, "Phoness," 7, Braid Road, Edinburgh:
GIVEN AWAY—AGE BY OUTRAGE.

Mr. FRED KITCHEN, Stockheld Grange, Scholes, Leeds:
MAKING ADVANCES—SKIN-DEALER STROKES CAT.

Mr. JNO. Clarke, 281, High Street, Lincoln:
WON'T COME OFF—THE BENCH—OCTOGENARIAN.

DAISY DACRE, 8, Willowdale Road, Fazakerley, Liverpool:
MAKING ADVANCES—DUKES—DUTCH AUCTIONEERS.

Mr. W. E. TYSON, 117, Warwick Street, Pimlico, S.W.:
HER PAST—ONE'S "MUM" TO-DAY.

Mr. J. BURNSIDE FOTHERGILL, 54, Portland Rd., Nottingham:
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS—A "FROST" SOMETIMES.

Mr. G. BROWN, Alexandra House, Milton, Cambridge:
BEATING TIME—ASTROLOGER "FORESEEING" EVENTS.

60 PRIZEWINNERS OF £1

Akeroyd, Miss M. K., 18, Beaconsfield-av., Low Fell, Co. Durham.
Arthur, E., Junr., 37, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.
Baker, Miss E. C., 10, Clifton-hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.
Barber, A., 45, Battersea Park-rd., London, S.W.
Barnett, J. H., 43, Bath-st., Portobello.
Bennett, J., 47, St. John-st., Bridgwater, Som.
Burrows, A. C., 69, Gold-st., Northampton.
Carney, J., 179, Chester-st., Birkenhead.
Cook, W. N., 1.D, Ravensdale-rd, Stamford Hill, N.
Daly, J., (Staff), Kingsley Hotel, Hart-st., Bloomsbury, W.C.
Daniell, A. H., 23, Arundel-cres., North-rd., Plymouth.
Fleming, Miss F., 74, Lymington-av., Wood Green, N
Ford, S. C., 208, New Bridge-rd., Hull.
Frewer, Mrs. E., 44, Murray-rd., Rugby.
Gilbrook, J., 51, Stroma-rd., Forest Gate, E.
Griffin, R. H., Pounds Wick, Northern Etchells, Ches.
Hanna, J. W., 14, Lincoln-av., Belfast.
Harwood, Mrs. E., 2, Connaught-mans., Battersea Park.
Hollingworth, G., 156, Park-av., Hull.
Howe, F., 33, Cambridge-st., Wellingborough.
Ingham, W., 12, Edward-st., St. Peter's-rd., Mile End, E.
Jardin, Miss E., 143, Frederick-rd., Aston, Birmingham.
Kirkby, A., 27, Broomfield-st., Cheetham, Manchester.
Martin, G., Albion-st., Rowhedge, Essex.
Macnab, A., 36, Canaan-lane, Edinburgh.
McGeehan, C., 1, St. John-st., Coatbridge, N.B.
Meir, D. M., 124, Second-av., Clydebank.
O'Callaghan, J., 2, South Mall, Cork.
Powell, J., 20, Hertford-rd., East Finchley, N.
Pratt, R., 12, Brankingham-ter., Stockton-on-Tees.
Pritchards, J. I., Penlel Green, Llansamlet, Swansea.
Ratcee, Mrs. D., 202C, Wandsworth-rd., S.W.
Riddle, J., 6, Wilton-path, Hawick, N.B.
Riggins, J., 469, Gallowgate, Glasgow.
Roberts, W., 129, South-st., Bishops Stortford, Herts.
Rowland, J., Bullington Common, Sutton Scotney, Hants
Rubble, Rev. G. O., Easington Rectory, Easington Colliery, Co. Durham.
Rusbrooke, R., Upless, Faversham, Kent.
Ryall, F., 65, Coniger-rd., Fulham, S.W.
Salisbury, F., Evercreech, Somerset.
Schofield, F., 33, Grayburn-lane, Beverley, E. Yorks.
Shaw, G., 14, Quaker-ter., Little Horton, Bradford, Yorks.
Sprake, F. W., 82, Milmoor-rd., Balham, S.W.
Turner, C. A. (P.C. 129A.), Cloak-lane Police Station, Cannon-st., E.C.
Vane, M. A., 36, Lansdowne-rd., S. Lambeth-rd., S.W.
Van Kregten, P., 27, Morley-rd., East Twickenham.
Waters, C. B., 28, Ingram-rd., Bulwell, Notts.
White, A. E., The Birches, Grosvenor-place, Cheltenham.
Williams, Mrs. R., 22, East India Dock-rd., Limehouse, E.
Williams, W. J., 54, Micheldever-rd., Lee, S.E.

Reduced facsimile of the
£500 "BULLETS" CHEQUE
paid to last week's First Prize Winner.

The original of the above cheque will be on view at Messrs. Winterbottom and Co.'s Bookstall, Moorfields, Liverpool, until January 3rd, and hence until January 7th at Mr. J. McKeon's Bookstall, Exchange Pavement, Liverpool.

Selection from 250 Other Prize Winners

Aldon, B. D., No. 426, 23, Hope-st., Glasgow.
Allan, Miss A. R., 1, Stanley-gdns., Parkhead, N.W.
Allen, W., 12, Rossiter-rd., Balham, S.W.
Allen, Mrs. M., 2, Beechdale-rd., Brixton Hill, S.W.
Alsford, Mrs. A., 54, Bootham-st., New North-rd., N.
Bacon, L., 17, Shakespeare-av., Bath.
Baddeley, Mrs. K., Montreux Palace Hotel, Montreux.
Bailey, S., Empress Laundry, Seaforth-rd., Aberdeen.
Barber, Miss, Tremorval, 4, Bournemouth Park-rd., Southend-on-Sea.
Barnsley, 123, Mitchell-st., Newton Heath, Manchester.
Behenna, Miss E., 169, Wargrave-av., Stamford Hill, N.
Bennett, Mrs. A., 3, Lee-cres., Portobello, Scotland.
Bennett, D., Dennington Bridge Bar, Leith, N.B.
Bennett, A. C., 199, Railway-ter., Rugby.
Benson, J., 50, Folkestone-st., Hull, Yorks.
Beverley, G., 59, Marischal st., Aberdeen.
Bilton, Mrs. G., 13, Valmar-rd., Denmark Hill, S.E.
Brownlee, Mrs. S. W., 12, Beeston-st., Castle Northwich, Ches.
Blackburn, J., 22, Welbeck-st., Wakefield.
Blake, T., 3, The Cottages, Clifton-rd., Tunbridge Wells.
Blossome, E. A., Marlborough-st., New Cross Gate, S.E.
Blumsom, Miss, 6, Lilian-st., Hawkley-rd., Stoke Newington.
Bonnett, W. E., Craig View, Teignmouth, S. Devon.
Boyce, E. W., 66, Roman-rd., South Shields.
Brett, L., 23, Engineer-rd., Woolwich Common, Kent.
Brewer, Mrs. M., Severn-rd., Henbury, Bristol.
Brown, Mrs. F., 35, Wellsted-st., Hull.
Bullock, Miss M. M., 49, Crowmere-rd., Shrewsbury.
Butterwick, A., 110, Woodlands Park-rd., Harringay, N.
Cadwallader, W. F., 18, Chapel-st., Levenshulme, Manchester.
Callingham, Mrs. E. S., York House, Thames Ditton, Surrey.
Carne, Mrs. J., 20, Mill-rd., Eastbourne.
Carr, R., 6, Norwood-av., Southport.
Chambers, H., 14, Vernon-rd., Luton.
Clark, Mrs. E., Church Gates Bakery, Ash, Canterbury.
Clarke, I., 46, Deville-st., Grimsby.
Cleere-Atkinson, H., 10, Blossom-ave., Chorlton-cum-Medlock.
Cole, Mrs. M., High-st., Upton-on-Street.
Coleman, D., 13, St. Mary's-sq., Paddington Green, W.
Coll, E., 4, Gibauderie, St. Peter's Port, Guernsey.
Collins, C. H., 6, Sterndale-st., West Kensington, W.
Collins, Mrs. A., 21, High-st., Grays, Essex.
Collins, B., 7, Station-rd., Cardenden, Fife.
Cook, G. R., 44, Perry-st., Anlaby-rd., Hull.
Cooper, M., Trequnna, Wadebridge, Cornwall.
Cooper, G., 3, Clitheroe-rd., Clapham, S.W.
Cotton, H., The Quay, St. Ives, Hunts.
Counsellor, S. M., 24, Marine Parade, Morecambe.
Cowe, T., 86, Belford-ter., North Shields.
Cowen, A., 32, Lidderdale-rd., Liverpool, N.
Cox, W. R., 32, Dickman-rd., Sparkbrook, Birmingham.
Crawford, W., 33, Market-st., Limavady, Co. Londonderry.
Croft, Mrs. W. J., 1, Oswald-gdns., Scotstounhill, Glasgow.
Crothers, Mrs., Harbour View, Hayle, Cornwall.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes, originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 30 and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ——— & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, January 7th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter in dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been elected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudication staff, in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

Newbury to-day (Wednesday), and the Manchester New Year Meeting on Thursday and Friday, are the fixtures to be discussed this week. Strangely enough, there is no racing on Saturday, a state of things that seldom occurs.

At Newbury to-day, the results will to some extent be affected by the doings on the first day there. Taking the programme as it stands, however, we may write down

SUROB

as a good thing for the Berkshire Hurdle. He has a great liking for this course, and when beaten at Hurst Park recently he was clearly second best although pulled out of a place. We must give CORTIGAN'S PRIDE yet another chance in the Lambourn Steeplechase, and Finnigan should resume his winning sequence in the Andover Steeplechase.

At Manchester to-morrow (Thursday), the New Year Hurdle looks like going to GLAZEBROOK; the January Steeplechase to SHAUN NA SCAUB; and the Sportsman's Welter Flat Race to

MOSCATO.

On Friday, LONDERRY, on his Kempton form, should be a good thing for the Peel Park Hurdle. If FLORISSANTE is sent up north she should comfortably win the Club Maiden Hurdle Race. Perhaps the best thing of the meeting and of the week is

CARRIGRUE

for the Manchester Steeplechase. So far this one has been unlucky, but seems a very likely proposition now.

A USEFUL LITTLE BOOK.

We have received a copy of the *Sporting Life* Companion, which contains much useful information in connection with practically every form of sport.

Football Fancies.

BY "McW."

If you have set your mind on having a happy and prosperous New Year, vow that you will win that £2,000, or, failing that, annex the £1,000 which *must* be won.

Take a hint from me. In studying form, for coupon purposes, ignore the holiday results. Forget that the Arsenal, for instance, were phenomenally lucky and that the 'Spurs were burdened by calamity. Do not dwell upon the sorrows of Preston North End nor the joys of Hull City.

Tradition counts for a very great deal in these contests. Certain clubs are like old war horses when the bugle sounds. Notts Forest, for instance, are at present meek and lowly, but whisper "Cup Tie" and they may prance around like dancing dervishes. The Villa have been none too pleasing to their supporters but, mark my words, they and Sunderland—both of whom, by-the-bye, have drawn the soft things of the First Round—will be going it like Kilkenny cats before the finish.

Glancing at our £2,000 coupon I am most impressed by the chances of Newcastle United—lucky, as usual, in being drawn at home. Queen's Park Rangers, Oldham, Crystal Palace and Hull City come next in favouritism. The stiff fights should be seen at Manchester, Swindon, Millwall and Leicester. The other matches have a very open book.

Though Blackburn Rovers have proved themselves the team of the season so far, I like them not for the Cup. True they have tradition in favour of them, but it is the tradition of many years ago.

The game of the First Round should be seen at Swindon. There will be decided the merits of the English and the Southern Leagues. Swindon is, without a doubt, the best side in the latter tourney, whilst Manchester United may be acclaimed good enough to be bracketed with Blackburn Rovers and Sunderland as prospective champions of the English League. Swindon, of course, have the advantage of playing at home, but Manchester United, at the time of writing, have actually won on foreign soil on six occasions.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 3rd January, 1914.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL	The Umpire.	Sport of the World.	Weekly Dispatch.	Sportsmen's Journal.	Sunday Chronicle	Sporting Chronicle.	Lloyd's Weekly.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—SECOND LEAGUE—SECOND LEAGUE	Blackburn R. v. Aston Villa ..	Draw.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Bolton W. v. Manchester C. ..	Bolton won	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Draw	Home
	Bradford City v. Middlesbro' ..	Middlesbro won	Home		Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Chelsea v. Oldham Athletic ..	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Draw	Home	—	Draw	Away
	Derby C. v. Tottenham H. ..	Derby won	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	—	Home	Draw
	Everton v. Newcastle U. ..	Newcastle won	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	—	Draw	Home
	Manchester C. v. Sheffield U. ..	Manchester won	Away	Away	Home	Home	Draw	—	Home	Draw
	Sheffield W. v. Burnley	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	—	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Liverpool	Sunderland won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	West Bromwich A. v. Preston N.E.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Birmingham v. North County ..	No match	Home	Away	Away	Away	Draw	—	Draw	Home
	Blackpool v. Barnsley	Barnsley won	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Away	Home
	Bristol City v. Bradford	Draw	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Draw	—	Draw	Draw
	Clapton O. v. [illegible]	Orient won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Grimsby Town v. Leicester F. ..	Grimsby won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Draw	Home
	Huddersfield T. v. Fulham ..	Huddersfield won	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Home	Draw
	Leeds City v. Stockport C. ..	Leeds won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Lincoln City v. Bury	Bury won	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	—	Draw	Away
	Notts. Forest v. Hull City ..	Forest won	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Away	—	Draw	Away
	Wednesday A. v. Wolverhampton W.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	West Ham U. v. Bristol R. ..	West Ham won	Home	Home		Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Worksop Town v. Queen's Park R.	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	—	Home	Home
	Plymouth A. v. Swindon Town ..	Plymouth won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	—	Draw	Home
	Southampton v. Cardiff City ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Reading v. Exeter City	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Crystal Palace v. Millwall A. ..	Palace won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Coventry City v. Portsmouth ..	Coventry won	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	—	Draw	Away
	Watford v. Brighton & Hove ..	Watford won	Draw	Away	Away	Home	Draw	—	Home	Away
	Norwich City v. Southend U. ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Gillingham v. Northampton ..	Gillingham won	Draw	Away	Draw	Home	Home	—	Home	Home

£2.000 for First Round Forecasts. £1,000 must be Won.

£700 TO BE SHOT FOR £700.

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Premier Prizes this season have been awarded as follows:—

Sept. 1st Contest (no tens predicted) 14 nines gained £17 17s. 1d.

„ 6th „ (no tens predicted) 38 nines gained £6 11s. 6d.

The above results—no tens for two successive contests—constitute a record for Continental Competitions.

Sept.	13th	Contest	2	tens	gained	£125	0s. 0d.
„	20th	„	5	„	„	50	0 0
„	27th	„	117	„	„	2	2 8
Oct.	4th	„	53	„	„	4	14 4
„	11th	„	8	„	„	31	5 0
„	18th	„	41	„	„	6	1 11
„	25th	„	2	„	„	125	0 0
Nov.	1st	„	5	„	„	50	0 0
„	8th	„	3	„	„	13	6 8
„	15th	„	2	„	„	125	0 0
„	22nd	„	15	„	„	16	13 4
„	29th	„	17	„	„	14	14 1
Dec.	6th	„	10	„	„	25	0 0
„	13th	„	8	„	„	31	5 0

H. T. TERRY,

"Football World," Geneva, Switzerland

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The following correct numbers have been received:—

Mr. F. DIXON, 4, Caledonian Rd., Jarrow-on-Tyne. December 6th. No. 257,792.

Mr. T. SAGE, 15, Avondale Road, Gelli, Ton Pentre, S. Wales. November 8th. No. 106,940.

Mr. W. H. RASTALL, 4, Bianca St., Bootle, Liverpool. December 6th. No. 179,637.

Mr. W. J. CARPENTER, 131, London Rd., Carlisle. November 29th. No. 138,440.

Mr. S. RUSSELL, 13, Watling Street, E.C. December 20th. No. 327,151.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 27th:—

007755	198807	381827	636539	850039
023938	205976	420117	651243	852448
052980	218389	433658	695797	873879
078709	233775	467078	704376	907024
089856	250874	482518	708996	921243
113439	260323	508451	746633	967438
132589	281036	514205	753076	996212
145916	318895	533318	817448	A003580
159265	326462	563121	824189	A008072
189426	364565	609108	843914	A015395

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on January 7th.

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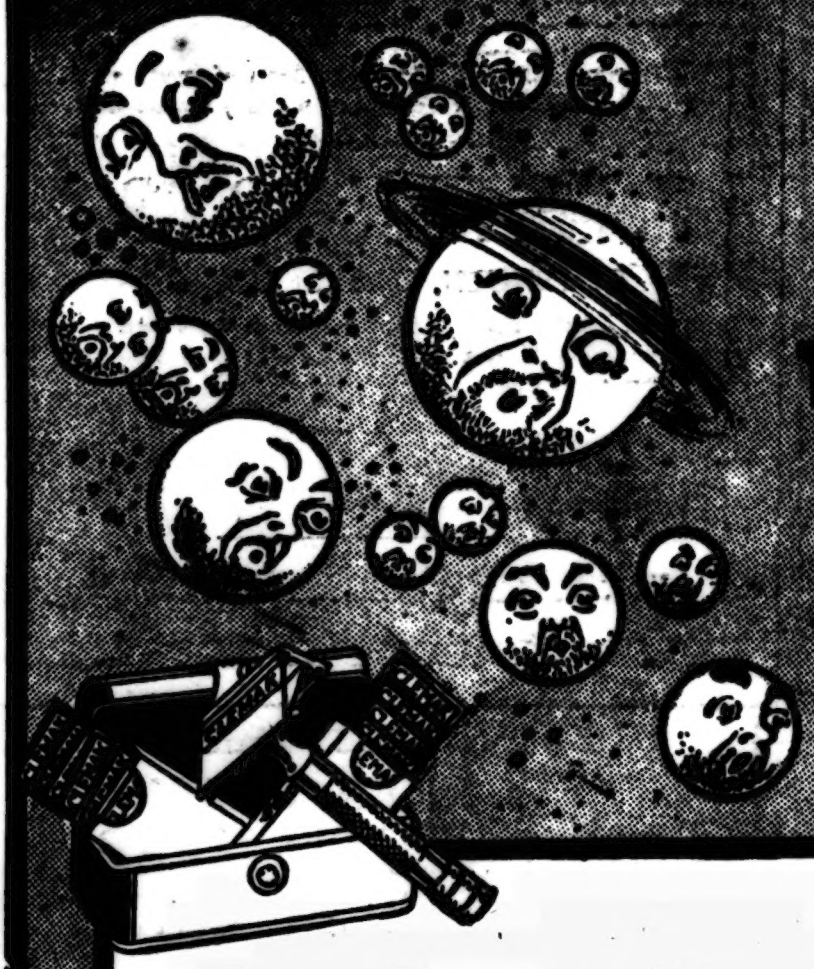

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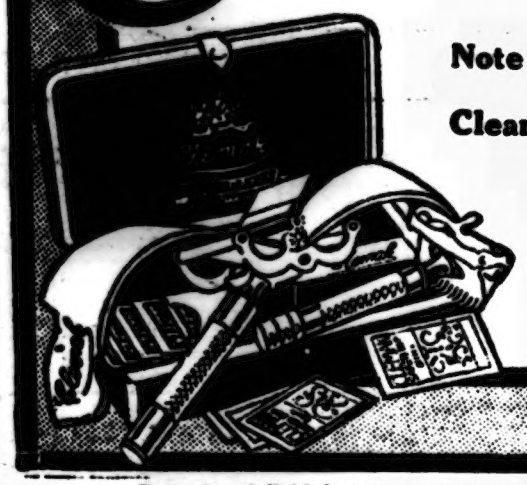

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